

COMMENT OF THE DAY

The Dictator's Dilemma

SINCE the middle of 1950 when Marshal Tito instigated a policy of relaxation of the rigid Soviet-type Communist policy confirmed and perfected in Yugoslavia in the days of its alliance with Russia, Western observers have been eagerly discussing the limits to which the State is prepared to go in what may be termed the "democratisation" process. In the last three and a half years the Tito regime has undertaken a number of fundamental reforms, the most notable of which is the decentralisation of the rigid, over-centralised top-heavy State-controlled economy which entailed nationalisation of a number of industries and the dissolution of unprofitable collective farms. Government spokesmen now lay so much stress on initiative and enterprise and even the profit motive that the latest Government statements bear an unmistakable resemblance to a Tory election manifesto. In fact, Tito has embarked on an extensive programme of "decentralisation" of his country. And this, coupled with his desire to build national socialism within the country, was rather the primary motive for the reforms instituted in recent years. Naturally, however, any trend away from the rigid Stalinist system involves the introduction of personal, economic and even political freedom and this is certainly obvious in Yugoslavia's case and no attempt has been made to disguise it.

ESSENTIALLY Tito's expressed aim is to mould the Yugoslav people into a single nation, to bring all the different national groups within the country to the standard of living enjoyed by the most prosperous—in this case the Slovenes. But Tito must now be aware that every step he takes away from doctrinal rigidity is bound to weaken the Party and therefore to weaken the authority of a regime which is still primarily based on it. That is his dilemma. He is opposed in his reforms by the old orthodox group who view with dismay the consequent — and perhaps logical — "Americanisation" of the country following their leader's acceptance of dollar aid. He is also opposed by a "liberal faction" who feel his reforms do not go far enough. This week, Milovan Djilas, a fervent liberal who was dismissed from all official posts in January this year following his heretical attack on Yugoslavia's one-party system, again criticised the inflexibility of the regime and urged the creation of a new Socialist party and a two-party system. Brave words by Mr Djilas but undoubtedly they were calculated to test official reaction. A rebuke by Tito is, in itself, of little significance to the liberals. The importance lies in whether Tito decides to silence or ignore this fearless advocate of something very close to Western-style democracy. For if the Dictator chooses to ignore him, it will be a sign of tolerance that will certainly be interpreted to mean that further relaxations in Government policy are now possible. It will also be interpreted as a sign of Marshal Tito's growing confidence in the country's progress towards national unity. Whatever the Marshal's views may be, however, one thing is certain: that although he has frequently been urged by Western socialists to adopt a more liberal system, he is today essentially the same individual who, in 1948, repudiated his country's ties with the Communists. He will, as they say, be backed by friends or foes but will act at the time he considers most appropriate for the good of his country.

MR FRANCE OVER ONE HURDLE

**But Still Another To Go
GERMAN ENTRY INTO NATO
APPROVED BY 38 MAJORITY**

Paris, Dec. 28. The French Assembly approved German entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation last night but early today the National Assembly forced the Premier, M. Pierre Mendes-France, to demand at least one more confidence vote on the actual rearmament of West Germany and ultimate success is still in doubt. Shortly after M. Mendes-France won a confidence vote on Germany entering NATO, the powerful Foreign Affairs Committee voted to recommend rejection of the Western European Union, under which Germany would be granted limited and controlled arms. The vote was 20 to 19 with four abstentions. M. Mendes-France immediately announced he would demand a confidence vote on German rearmament alone at 4 p.m. Wednesday (1500 GMT). He said the government would draft a whole new ratification bill, leaving out WEU, in an effort to get around procedural difficulties. Details of the new bill were not disclosed, but M. Mendes-France made it clear to the Assembly that it would call for ratification of German rearmament and would not include the once-defeated article outlining West European Union.

Last night the Assembly voted 289 to 251 in approving German entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. The vote was hailed as a great victory for M. Mendes-France, who had staked the life of his Government on the issue. M. Mendes-France, pale and obviously tired, made a moving appeal to the Assembly just before the first vote of confidence last night when he stressed that the future of France was in the balance. He said bluntly he knew of no alternative to the Paris agreements. New meetings with Britain and the United States on this subject were no longer possible.

REDUCED TO ZERO
If the Paris agreements were rejected, "our credit with the United States and Great Britain will be reduced to zero. In Russia it will be little more once we have broken with our allies." He added: "A refusal would mean launching France on an adventure which would be

murderous for the country and its security. His strong speech secured him the majority of 38 votes. M. Mendes-France had intended to have another vote of confidence after his first success. But he withdrew it after the authors of two anti-Government motions aimed at holding up the application of the agreement once they were ratified were withdrawn.

TACTICAL DEFEAT
This move was a tactical defeat for the Government's chief opponents, the Popular Republicans led by the former Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, who was mainly responsible for the rejection of German rearmament on Friday. The Assembly's vote in favour of admitting Germany to NATO seems almost certain to be followed by another reversing its Christmas Eve verdict against rearmament in the Western European Union. But if the Assembly maintains its ban on German rearmament the entire "package" of the

Paris agreements in Western defence, which are practically indivisible, would fall to the ground. Rejection of German rearmament would thus annul the admission of Germany to NATO and the Franco-German agreement on the Saar. Even if the Assembly complies with ratification by the middle of this week the agreement can have no immediate effect as they must still be endorsed by the West German Parliament and the French Senate.

FORMAL MAJORITY
But if the Senate rejects the Paris and Saar agreements the Assembly needs only pass another formal majority vote to give them force of law. The Senate may not, however, vote on them, perhaps for several months. Until the French and German Parliaments complete these formalities and exchange instruments of ratification, Germany's military contribution to Western defence and its effect on the Atlantic Alliance would not become operative.

Commission Votes Not Binding

The Foreign Affairs Commission has an advisory capacity in the Assembly. No explanation was immediately forthcoming as to why the Foreign Affairs Commission tonight voted against ratification of the German rearmament clause, although several weeks ago it recommended the Assembly to ratify the Paris agreement.

The Foreign Affairs Commission votes are not, of course, binding on the Assembly and it was presumed that one reason for the negative advice by the Commission tonight was to force the Government to put the vote of confidence on this clause instead of trying to get it through tonight on a free vote.

DEMONSTRATIONS
Organised demonstrations around the Chamber of Deputies broke up without trouble when a Communist Deputy left the debate on German rearmament and asked the delegations to go home. Hundreds of extra police lined the long riverside block from the Quai d'Orsay—the French Foreign Office—to the Chamber of Deputies as demonstrators massed around the Assembly. A few carried signs calling on the Deputies to turn down German rearmament and the WEU, but there were no incidents. About 300, singing the Marseillaise, marched away to the nearby student cafes of Saint Germain des Pres.

U.K. OPTIMISM
But in London, M. Pierre Mendes-France's victory in the Assembly dispelled the gloom that spread over Government quarters on Christmas Eve, when the deputies rejected the treaty to rearm West Germany. The result of the vote in Paris was immediately telephoned to Sir Winston Churchill and Sir Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, who are still in the country on holiday. There were no immediate Foreign Office comment. Officials in London cautiously observed that tonight's vote was one of a number which had to be taken before the Western treaties are finally approved by the French Parliament.

U.K. GRATIFIED
Augusta, Georgia, Dec. 27. President Eisenhower tonight expressed gratification at the French National Assembly

vote approving the entry of West Germany into NATO. The President Press Secretary, Mr. James Hagerty, told a press conference the President was gratified at the turn the proceedings had taken in Paris. Senator Alexander Wiley, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in Washington that French approval of West Germany's entry into NATO was "welcome news of the greatest historical significance to all the free world."

But he added that the West could be sure Russia would continue to use "every sort of strategy in order to try to sabotage the pact."

GERMANY'S WELCOME
Bonn, Dec. 27. The vote in the French Assembly tonight was warmly welcomed by Government officials. They said the favourable decision on NATO was a "happy omen" for the outcome of the other votes facing the Assembly to admit West Germany to the West European Union and give her a 500,000 strong army.

The deputy chairman of the Social Democratic Parliamentary Party, Herr Wilhelm Mellies, told Reuter the "narrow majority under British and American pressure" the Assembly had given German entry into NATO was "a bad start" for future co-operation. — All Agencies.

Big U.S. Carrier Coming Here

Norfolk, Dec. 27. The 45,000-ton aircraft carrier USS Midway, which for more than 10 years has been attached to the naval base at Norfolk, left today to join the United States Fleet in the Pacific.

The Midway will join the Seventh Fleet and operate in the Japan, Korea and Formosa area as part of Task Force 77.

On her way she will call at Colombo, Singapore, Manila, Hongkong and Yokosuka. — France-Press.

X Certificate For "1984" Film

From Our Own Correspondent

London, Dec. 27. The film of George Orwell's "1984," which is to be made early next year at Eclair Studios will be awarded an "X" horror certificate, which will ban all children from seeing it.

Mr. Ralph Bettinson, a director of the independent company which is to make the film, said in Paris last night: "The script has been seen by the British censors and I had a cable today saying that no major decisions would be necessary."

The head of the company is the American producer Mr. Peter Raithe, former chief of RKO Radio Pictures, who is flying to Britain next month to complete casting.

SCRIPT APPROVED
Agents for Mrs. Sonia Blair, George Orwell's widow (he wrote under a pen name) said the film rights were sold more than six months ago for a substantial sum. Mrs. Blair has passed the

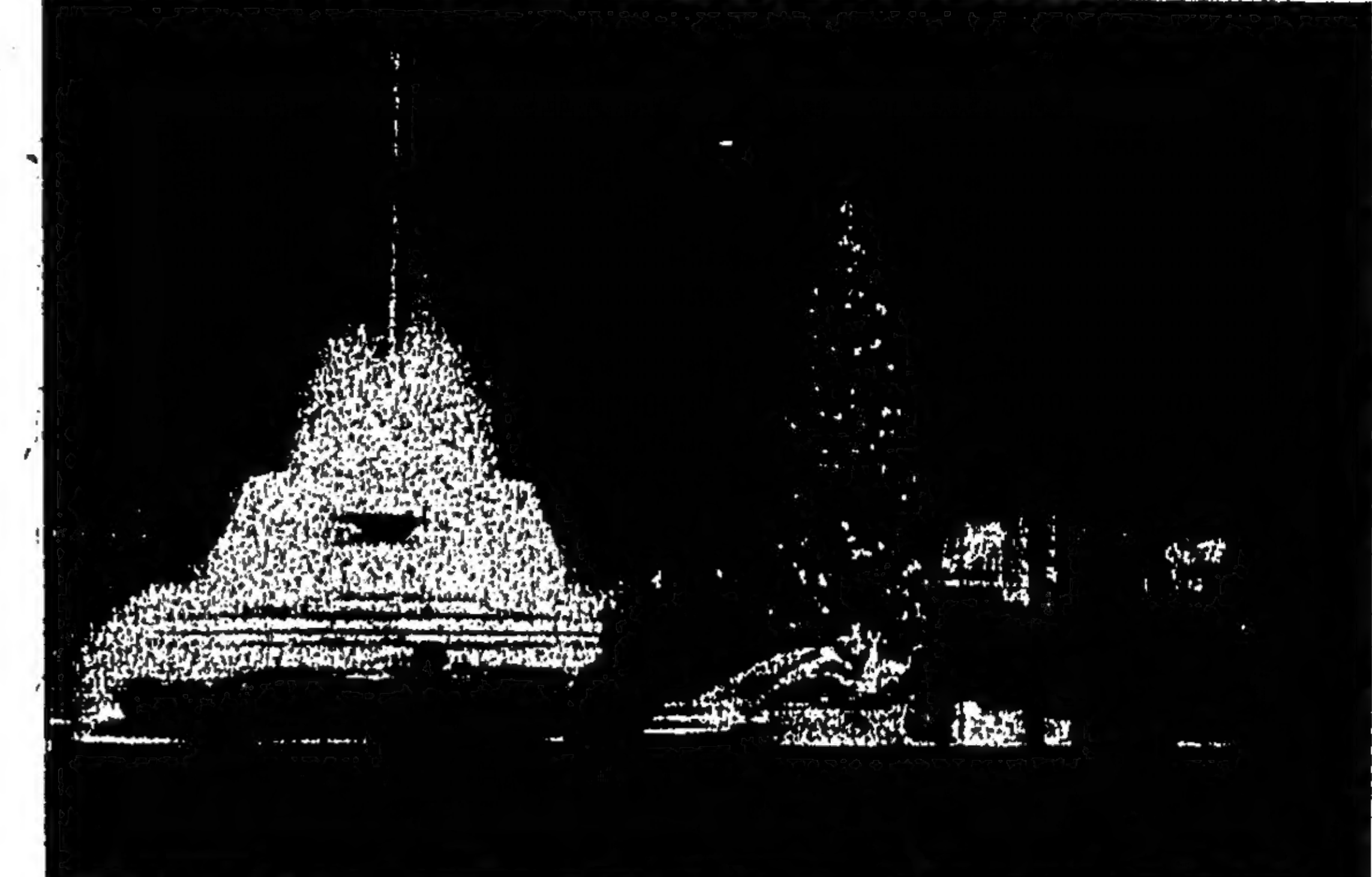
script as being a true adaptation of the book.

The biggest TV audience since the Coronation last week saw a repeat of "1984." It cut cinema attendances and packed public houses equipped with TV sets.

Before it began its second showing Mr. Michael Barry, head of television's Gramercy department, warned viewers of its grimness.

He said that in the controversy that had raged since the first showing the play had been described as "disturbing" and "horrific." "I think it is neither," he declared. "No cuts were made. Millions of viewers saw the play again."

The Lights Go On In Trafalgar Square



Passers-by stop and look at the coloured lights decorating the Christmas tree in London's Trafalgar Square, are switched on for the first time last week. The tree, set up between two illuminated fountains, is the annual gift to London from Norway.—Reuterphoto.

Violent Earthquake Rocks Mediterranean Islands

Messina, Sicily, Dec. 27. A sustained and violent 11-hour earthquake rocked the tiny Lipari Islands off the North coast of Sicily today, causing houses to collapse and spreading panic among the poverty-ridden inhabitants.

First reports said at least 20 buildings were injured and scores of houses damaged. The Lipari Islands, lying about 50 miles north-west of the Messina Straits, are a volcanic group which includes Stromboli. Fiery Stromboli staged a spectacular eruption on December 8 but none of the inhabitants was hurt. The first warning of the earthquake came yesterday, when a one-hour tremor rocked the islands.

COMMUNICATIONS DISRUPTED

The first shocks ruptured communications between the islands and the mainland, but a radio link was restored this afternoon. First reports indicated the quake struck hardest at Messina, on the island of Salina. Salina is a ten-square-mile dot in the Mediterranean composed of the cones of two extinct volcanoes. The reports said the 5,000-odd fishermen, miners and farmers on Salina and the other islands fled into the fields in their night clothes as the earthquake started in the middle of the night. Some took shelter in caves which their forefathers used on similar occasions.

AFRAID TO GO HOME

The peasants covered in the caves or in hastily-erected tents, afraid to go home for fear of another shock. Earthquakes

Truck Crash: 17 Dead

Cuzco, Peru, Dec. 27. Seventeen people were killed and two others were critically injured when a truck crowded with holiday makers fell down a 600-foot chasm yesterday when going to Curahugsi Fair. — United Press.

Snowless Christmas

ROME: In the wake of an almost snowless Christmas, clear blizzards and warm sun continued to prevail over most of Italy today.

Weather In Europe

LONDON: A mild sunny day over most of the country today drew thousands out to sports events or on trips to the countryside and sea coast.

High Altitude Jet Crash

San Jose, Calif., Dec. 27. Two single-engine Panther jets on a high altitude test flight collided head-on near Mount Hamilton today with a "blinding" explosion witnessed by scores of persons over 75 miles away. Wreckage dropped over a wide area.

25 Killed In Landslides

Quilua, Colombia, Dec. 27. At least 25 people were reported today to have been killed by week-end landslides in the town of Cantagudo, 100 miles from here.

According to fragmentary reports over disrupted communications, the slides were due to heavy rains. The stricken area is in the rich platinum mining zone of the Atrato River. — United Press.

DAVIS CUP

Sydney, Dec. 28. Vito Seixas and Tony Trabert of U.S.A. won the first set by 6-2 in the doubles of the Challenge Round of the Davis Cup.

The Americans played aggressive tennis and completely outplayed the Australians. Head and Rosewall slotted enough to tie the second 6-4. The vital game proved to be the third, where the Australians broke through Trabert's service to go ahead.

The Americans won the third set 4-2. — U.P. —

5 Asian Premiers Meeting Today

Djakarta, Dec. 28. The Prime Ministers of five Asian nations open talks here today to prepare for a wider conference of Afro-Asian powers on world problems.

A major issue before the Premiers of India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon and Indonesia is whether to invite Communist China and Japan to the main conference expected to be held in February or March.

Mr Jawaharlal Nehru of India, U Nu of Burma and Mr Mohammed Ali of Pakistan have already arrived in Djakarta for the two-day talks. Sir John Kotelawala, Premier of Ceylon, is due later.

AGENDA

They will meet at the hill resort of Bogor, outside Djakarta, in the palace of President Soekarno, where the four visiting Premiers are staying.

Apart from the question of which nations are to be invited to the bigger conference, the Premiers must also reach agreement on an agenda.

Official sources say the question of anti-colonialism is expected to be one of the main subjects.

Three uninvited guests arrived here yesterday to urge the Premiers to champion the Arab cause in North Africa and Israel. They represented Arab organisations.

INDIAN FORMULA

The Times Correspondent in Djakarta said in a cable today that the Indian formula that Australia, New Zealand and Japan should be invited along with China would not find much favour with Indonesia because of Australian support of the Dutch in the West New Guinea dispute.

But the Indian Prime Minister, the correspondent continues, can be diplomatically "accentuating" when he wants to be and some arrangement likely to further Indian policy will be sought he reached.

Mr Nehru's talks in Bangkok over the week-end may have opened his eyes to Siamese fears of Chinese intentions and its Peking already subscribes to the Five Principles. It is believed that the presence of Siam and the Philippines may be considered more profitable than an attempt to introduce Mr Chou En-lai to the Prime Ministers who are to meet him.

MATTER OF TIMING

Mr Nehru's problem is a matter of timing. He believes that tension in Asia will be relieved if his neighbours meet the Chinese and see they are smiling human beings first and Communists second — but if he tries to hurry the introductions, the present alignment in the Far East will become more marked.

If Siam and the Philippines are to become a part of the new political Asia, an attempt will have to be made now and not after the Chinese debut — Reuter and The Times News Service (Copyright).

Just drive it!
WE'LL LET THE PERFORMANCE DO THE TALKING!

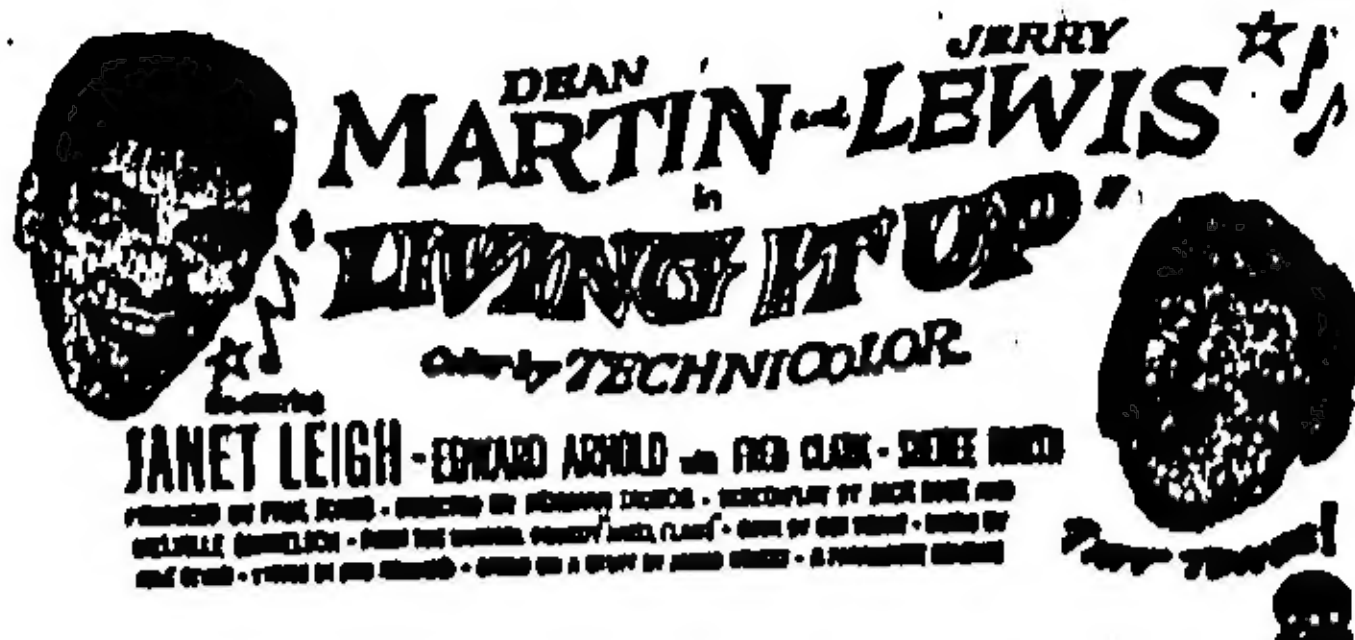
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MORRIS
DORVILLE MOTOR CO.

KING'S PRINCESS EMPIRE

At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m. At 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m. At 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.

TO-DAY



KING'S PRINCESS

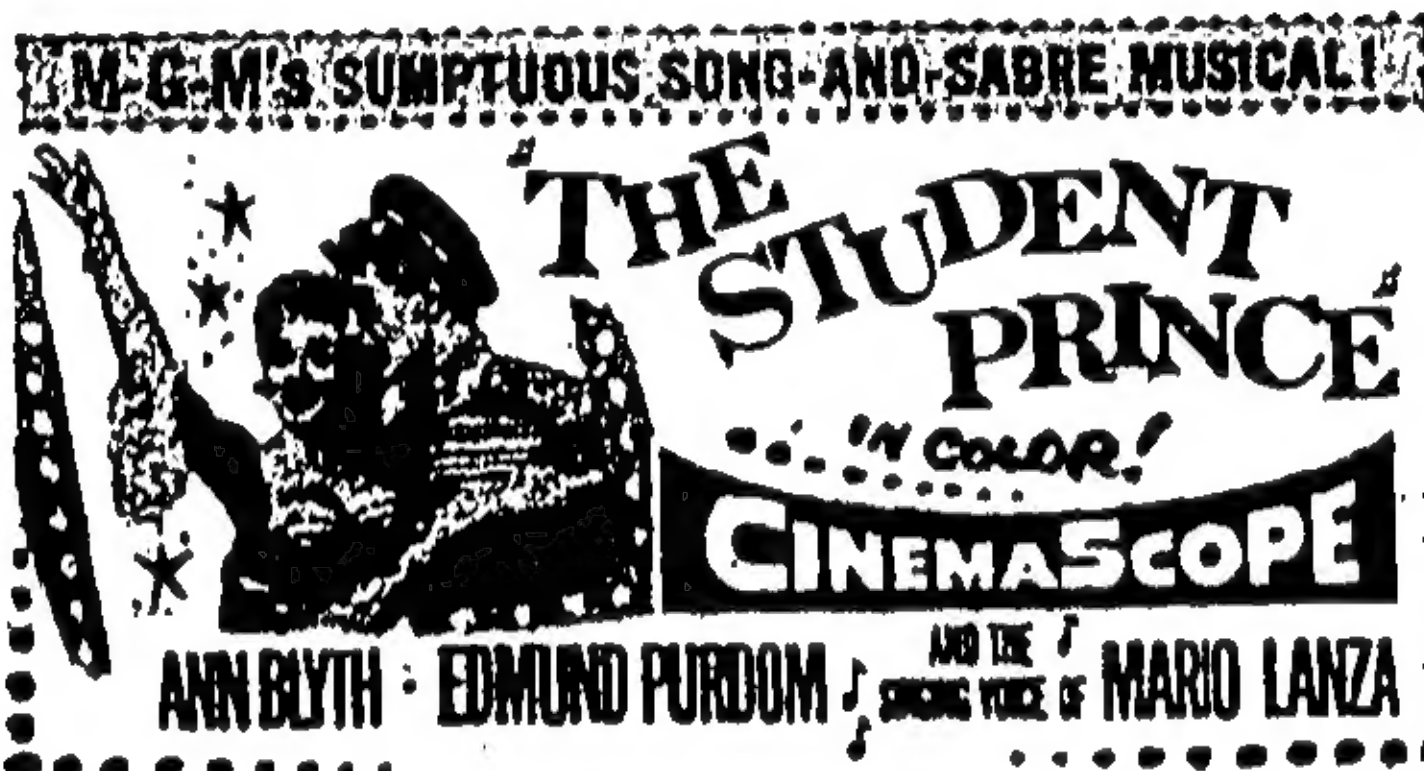
★ NEXT CHANGE ★



CAPITOL LIBERTY

4 SHOWS TO-DAY

AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.40 P.M.



LEE GREAT WORLD

SHOWING TO-DAY

DAILY AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



NEXT CHANGE AT THE LEE THEATRE

ROXY & BROADWAY

★ SHOWING TO-DAY ★

Owing to length of picture please note change of times:
At 2.30, 5.10, 7.30 & 9.40 p.m.ADDED ATTRACTION! CINEMASCOPE Short Subject
"FLYING TO FISH" in Technicolor.

AID FOR YUGOSLAVIA

Britain Decides
To Join
New Programme

Belgrade, Dec. 27.

Britain has reversed her decision announced in June not to join any aid programme for Yugoslavia for the year ending June 30, 1955, according to an announcement by a Vice-President, Lieutenant-General Svetozer Vukmanovic.

He said Britain would give £2 million this year and the United States would provide \$40 million (£14 million) as well as at least 850,000 tons of wheat to offset Yugoslavia's worst harvest since the first world war.

According to a usually reliable source here, Britain promised several months ago to alter her June decision and to continue aid if Yugoslavia and Italy settled their dispute over Trieste.

Tanjung, the Yugoslav News Agency, quoted General Vukmanovic as saying that Yugoslavia's heavy defence efforts and her efforts to balance her external accounts decided the Government of the United States, Britain and France to continue aid.

CONFERENCE SUGGESTED

The Vice-President suggested that a conference should be held of Yugoslavia's creditors to convert medium-term loans into long-term ones. The United States should provide a long-term credit to cover Yugoslavia's short-term loans.

He spoke favourably of economic relations with all Yugoslavia's main trading partners except West Germany, which he criticised because of the failure of Yugoslav-West German discussions in Bonn last week to settle Yugoslavia's claims on Germany dating from before and during the war.

Tanjung quoted General Vukmanovic as saying that £10 million (about £6,788,000) worth of compensation arrangements had been concluded with the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Eastern Germany this year.

Foreign trade with these countries had been revived after several years' interruption. Negotiations were pending or had been opened with them to conclude trade and payments agreements in preparation for expanded trade in the coming year.

Trade with both Eastern and Western countries would be expanded, he said.—Reuter.

LESS OPIUM
FOUND IN
SINGAPORE

Singapore, Dec. 28.

Customs authorities have seized nearly 3,000 pounds of raw opium so far this year compared to the 5,500 pounds seized during 1953.

The major part of the drug, worth approximately \$33,000, came from Burma and Thailand, from the opium-growing countries around China's Yunnan Province.

The rest of the haul, Customs authorities revealed, came from Persia and India.

Most of the opium confiscated was found hidden among the cargo and in engine rooms of ships coming from Europe, Thailand, Indian and Persian ports.

The authorities recently seized some 100 pounds of opium from the tail compartment of an aircraft which arrived here from Rangoon.—France-Press.

4,000 Cars
Stolen In
South Africa

Johannesburg, Dec. 28.

More than 4,000 cars are stolen throughout South Africa each year. Most are recovered, many in a seriously damaged condition, but 108 have vanished this year without leaving a trace.

It is estimated that at least 1,000 cars are taken or tampered with each month. Police have no accurate records of roadside thefts, because many motorists do not report minor incidents as they do not want to lose non-claim bonuses.

Apart from car thefts to strip valuable accessories such as radios, tyres and wheels, there are hundreds of cases of vehicles being taken for joy riding and then abandoned, sometimes without petrol and in a damaged condition.—Reuter.

FILM AWARD

New York, Dec. 27.

The annual award of the Independent Motion Picture Association of America for the best foreign language film of the year today was presented to the Japanese colour film "Gate of Hell."

Presenting the award, Mr. Bosley Crowther, film critic of the New York Times, hailed its qualities of beauty, imagination and sheer stupendous excitement.

Mr. Jiro Taniguchi, Consul-General of Japan here, accepted the award for the Daiei Motion Picture Company of Japan, which produced the film.—Reuter.

TO-DAY
ONLYMAJESTIC
AIR-CONDITIONEDAT 2.30, 5.20,
7.30 & 9.30
P.M.

Action!



TO-MORROW! "THE JOE LOUIS STORY"

FRANCE MAY
BUILD OWN
ATOM BOMBS

Paris, Dec. 27.

France is considering the possibility of building her own atomic bombs, authoritative sources said today.

It was disclosed that an exchange of views on warlike use of nuclear energy was held during a Cabinet meeting last night.

No decision was reached, it was said.

MINISTERS' FEELINGS

Many Ministers were described as feeling there had been no need shown yet for France to have her own A-weapons.

They felt it would be more profitable to concentrate on peaceful use of nuclear energy. A European Foundation is being set up in Switzerland for this, with French membership.

But others, it was authoritatively reported after the closed session, were mindful of the possible loss of French prestige in the international field in respect whether the reluctant Chamber of Deputies finally shoved through German rearmament.

Those Ministers saw in the manufacture of atomic weapons a chance for France to increase her weight in Big Power meetings, according to the sources.

Premier Pierre Mendes-France's own views were not disclosed on the ticklish problem of whether A-weapons should be built in this country, which has the second largest Communist Party in Europe.

The Ministers discussed the economic, scientific, financial and industrial problems of building French A-bombs.

Present atomic arms in Europe are in the hands of American forces. Although the Americans can train their NATO allies in atomic defence and strategy, American-built A-weapons must for the present at least remain in the possession of the U.S. forces.

The proposed French budget for 1955 contains no provision for expenditure on atomic weapon research, although some funds are provided for research into nuclear energy.

STRONG ADVOCATE

Among those attending the meeting was M. Jules Moch, permanent French representative on the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission and a strong advocate of disarmament and the banning of nuclear weapons.

Others included the Finance Minister, Edgar Faure, the National Defence Minister, M. Emmanuel Tardieu, the Secretaries for Air (M. Diemétille Cotruix), War (M. Jacques Chabanol) and Navy (M. Henri Callavet) as well as the Secretary of State for Scientific Research, M. Jean Longchambon, and the High Commissioner for Atomic Energy, M. Francois Perrin.—United Press.

Allies Could
Have Won
Korean War

Washington, Dec. 27.

Printed copies of testimony by the retired American General Edward Almond that the Allies missed two chances to win the Korean war were made available for public distribution today by the Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee.

According to the testimony taken at a public hearing before the Sub-Committee on November 23, General Almond, who commanded the Eighth Army during the Korean war and served as Chief of Staff under General Douglas MacArthur, said that he believed that the war could have been won first in November 1950, had the United Nations forces been permitted to bomb the Chinese Communist forces across the Yalu river.

The second chance was lost, he said, in June 1951, when General James Van Fleet received orders to halt the advance of General Almond's forces.

POP



QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

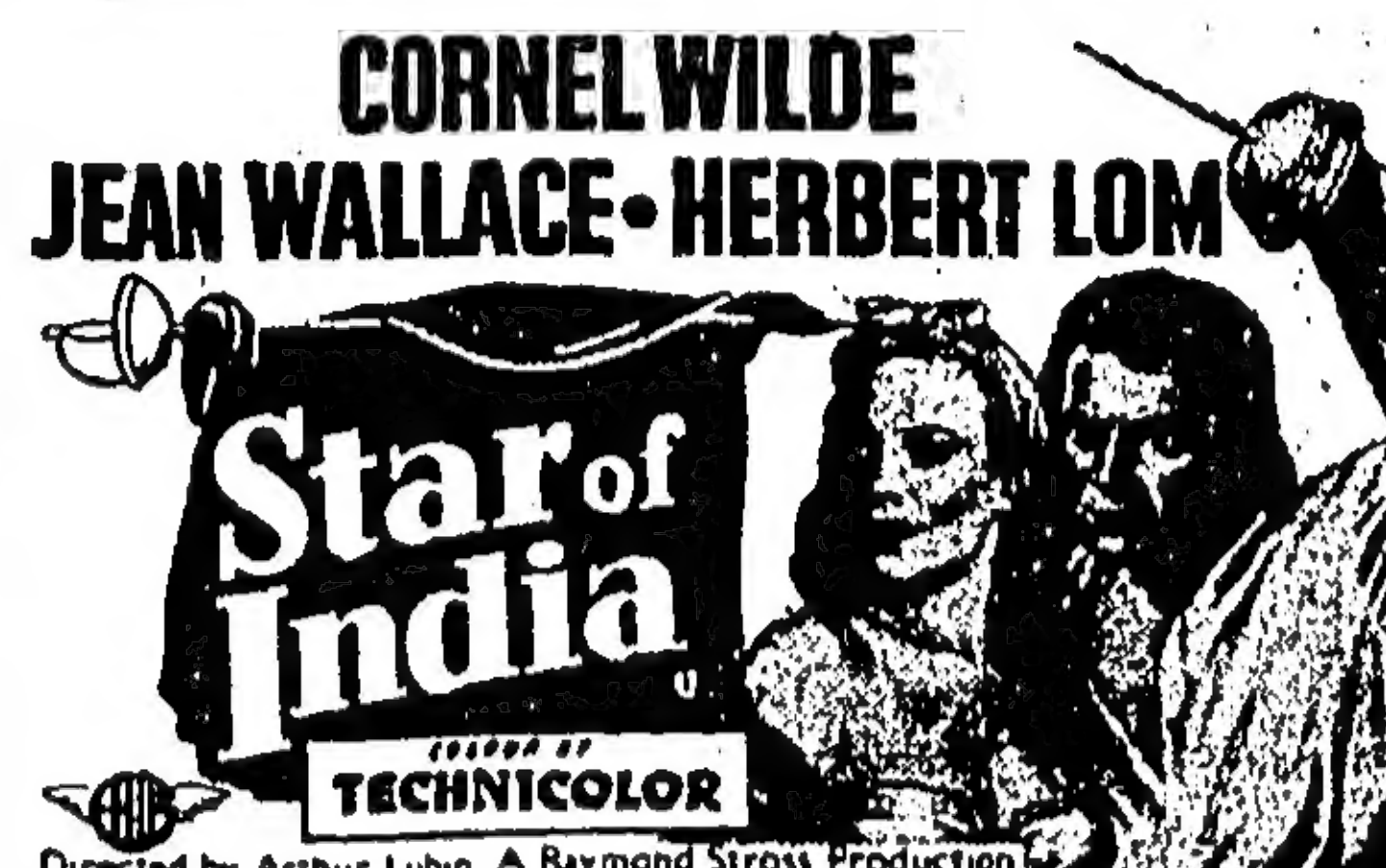
SHOWING TO-DAY

HIS BIGGEST ADVENTURE!



NEW YEAR ATTRACTION! Warner Bros. presents in Warnercolor "YOUNG AT HEART" Doris DAY • Frank SINATRA

HOOVER

NOW PLAYING
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30
& 9.30 P.M.

STARTING THURSDAY, DEC. 30th

"CRIMES of PARIS"

HOOVER: GREAT WORLD

COMING: THE UNCONQUERABLE!

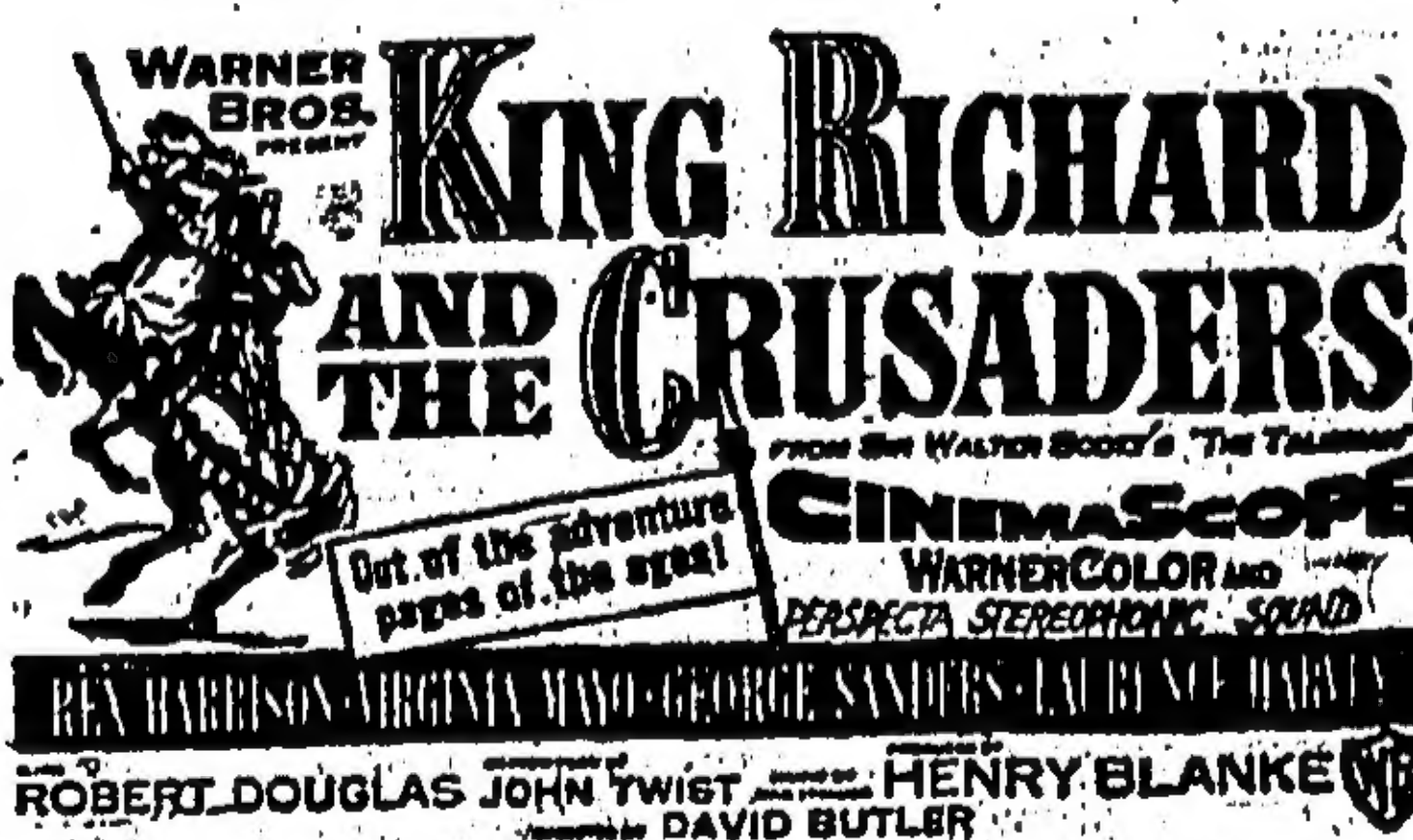


Watch for its opening day!!!

RITZ

SHOWING
TO-DAY

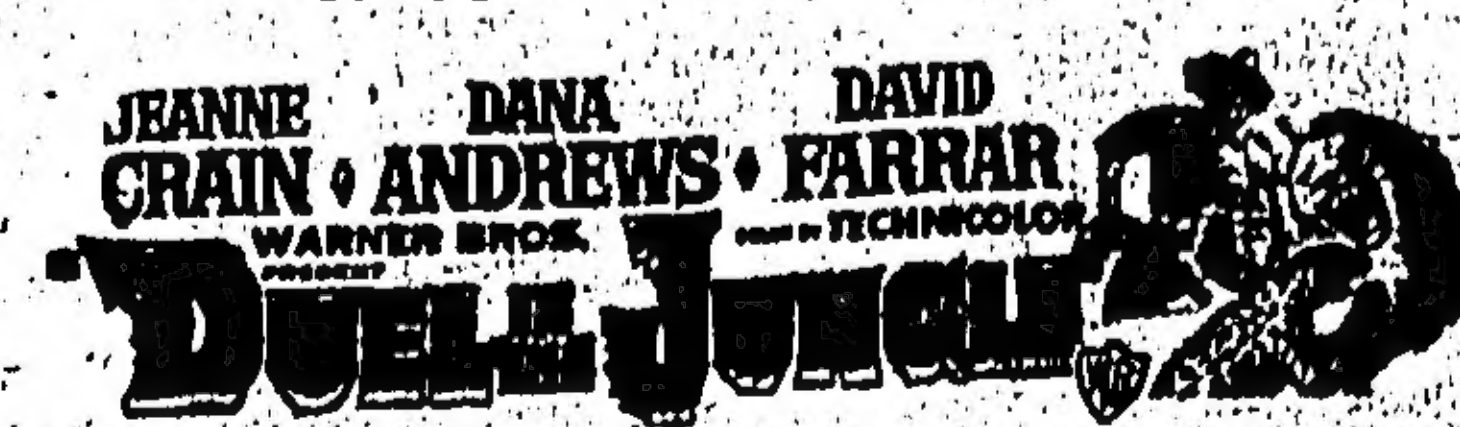
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



ORIENTAL

SHOWING TO-DAY
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30
& 9.30 P.M.

ON OUR GIANT WIDE SCREEN



Bumpered off!



POPE PIUS XII

POPE MAY HAVE OPERATION

Vatican City, Dec. 27. Pope Pius XII has responded well to the strength-building programme of increased amounts of food and exercise prescribed by the team of five doctors treating him, Vatican sources said today.

Under the programme it is possible the 78-year-old Pope will become strong enough for the doctors to operate and correct the hernia of the diaphragm which caused his collapse 25 days ago, the sources said.

The Pope made "very encouraging" progress over the Christmas holiday and is gaining strength steadily, the sources added. His condition has improved so that the doctors have stopped giving him the blood and plasma transfusions begun after his collapse on December 2.

Since Christmas there has been no trace of the hiccoughs that accompanied the Pope's gastritis, the sources said. The Pope now is able to digest increasing quantities of strength-building meals.

RESTFUL NIGHT
The Papal physician, Prof. Riccardo Galeazzi-Lisi, reported after a visit this morning that his patient spent a "very restful night."

The Pope heard mass seated in an armchair in his study and then breakfasted on boiled eggs and read the newspaper. Later, Monsignor Dellacqua, deputy-secretary of state, visited him to discuss affairs of the Church.

The Pontiff is working steadily on his 4,000-word Christmas address which he hopes will be ready by New Year. Illness delayed its preparation.

It will be published in the Vatican newspaper *Osservatore Romano* when finished. It includes another appeal for world peace, the sources reported.

Despite the Pope's marked improvement, Vatican sources warned the Pontiff still is weak. In line with his doctors' programme to build his strength the Pope takes daily outings in the Vatican Gardens.—United Press.

U.S. ARMED FORCES CUT

Senator Wants Careful Investigation

'ONE OF BIGGEST GAMBLES KNOWN'

Washington, Dec. 27.

Senator John C. Stennis said today that Congress must investigate carefully to determine whether the Administration's proposed cuts in United States armed strength can be "justified" by the modern concepts of atomic warfare.

The Mississippi Democrat is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He made the statement as another Senate Democrat—Senator Mike Monroney—urged that the Committee make a careful study of the entire defence programme emphasising the cuts in ground force manpower and the proposed reserve programme.

Sen. Monroney said that the cuts in Army and Marine strength constitute "one of the biggest gambles" the United States has ever known. He said decreasing the strength of the Army and Marines could be an invitation for more of the "nibbling tactics" employed by the Soviet Union.

Sen. Stennis did not say he opposes the proposed cuts. In Army, Navy and Marine strength announced last week by the Secretary of Defence, Mr. Charles E. Wilson. He said that the cuts must be "carefully and thoroughly" investigated.

ALTER IDEAS

"There is no question but that modern warfare makes it possible to alter certain of the ideas we have always had about manpower," Sen. Stennis said.

"The question will be whether these cuts can be justified on that basis."

Sen. Stennis said he is inclined to favour the Administration's plan for building up United States reserve forces through a continuation of the draft coupled with a sort of voluntary programme of universal military training.

"We have got to build up the reserve," Sen. Stennis said, "and I believe something of this sort will do the job."

Sen. Monroney agreed that some such programme is necessary to build up the reserve, but he criticised the move to cut down ground forces.

Sen. Monroney said the manpower cuts apparently are based on the assumption that the world climate now seems more favourable for avoiding war.

"That may be true as far as World War III is concerned," he said, "but it surely does not

apply to the kind of nibbling wars which have been taking place."

Mr. Wilson announced last Monday that the United States Armed Services, which at present number 3,218,000 will be cut to 2,815,000 by mid-1959 with the Army, Navy and Marine taking reductions in strength. That total had been a goal for armed strength by mid-1957. The new plan amounts to accelerating the reduction.

RESERVE PROGRAMME

The new reserve programme, announced three days previously, would continue the draft law for four years to obtain young men for two-year hitchees in the armed services. In addition it would set up a programme to give six months' military training to 100,000 youths a year.

The reserve programme is designed to make available combat ready reserves totalling 3,000,000 by 1960.—United Press.

U.S. Madrid Embassy To Cost £1M

Madrid, Dec. 27.

Madrid's new United States Embassy building will, it is estimated, have cost 3,000,000 dollars (over £1,000,000) by the time it is finished next year.

The nine-storey Embassy, a functional building resembling somewhat the United Nations palace in New York, but only 38 metres (about 124 feet) high, was begun in 1952. Then its cost was estimated at 1,250,000 dollars (about £420,000).

Recently, a sub-commission of the House of Representatives studied the cost of the building during a visit to Madrid. Representative Harrison Williams described the new Embassy as "born in extravagance and based on the belief that the United States would never run out of money."

There has been local criticism of the architecture of the new Embassy and recently the writer Rafael Garcia Serrano in the Spanish newspaper *"Arriba"* described it as "one of the two ugliest buildings in Madrid."

Other critics, however, have approved of its light and airy character.

One critic said: "Spanish public offices are often built without sufficient consideration for the light and other conditions in the rooms to be used by the employees. The new American building is an example of careful planning in this respect."—Reuters.

NEW HOSPITAL

Athens, Dec. 27.

A new 200-bed hospital, built largely with funds provided under the Marshall Plan, has been officially opened here.

The "Princess Alexandra" Maternity Hospital and the "Queen Frederica" Nurses Training School were inaugurated in the presence of the King and Queen of Greece.—Reuters.



Glibert Houche, Swedish wild animal tamer, showing his sensational number with seven lions. One of them jumps through a loop held by the tamer. Houche is seen at the opening performance of the Circus Festival now being held in Lyons. 13 circus companies take part.—Express Photo.

Kotelawala Wants To Promote World Friendship

Manila, Dec. 28.

Mr Carlos Garcia, Philippines Vice-President, and concurrently Foreign Minister, said here today that Sir John Kotelawala, Ceylon's Premier, impressed him "as one who wants to promote the friendship of all peoples, both the Communists and non-Communists, but in a showdown, he and his country will side with the Democracies."

Mr Garcia had the most contact with Sir John, accompanying him on a tour of historic places in and around Manila, and on a side trip to Baguio, in Northern Luzon.

Mr Garcia also said he was awaiting word from Sir John on his return to Ceylon on the relative possibility of Ceylon's buying her sugar requirements from the Philippines.

Sir John said there was no reason why Ceylon should not buy the Philippines' surplus sugar.

COPRA EXPERTS

Mr Garcia also urged that the Philippines should take advantage of Sir John's offer to send to the Philippines Ceylon copra experts to help the Philippines to improve the quality of its copra products.

Mr Garcia said he and Sir John discussed the feasibility of exchanging trade missions to determine what products could be exchanged by the two countries.

He said he would discuss with the Philippines businessmen soon a plan to bolster trade between Ceylon and the Philippines.

Mr Garcia appeared unimpressed by Sir John's belief that what Asia needed was "not blocs with set rules and regulations and objectives but something like a commonwealth which is a family."

Mr Garcia said Sir John's idea was grand, but it needed further study. He added the Philippines was already a member of the United Nations and other

alliances for defensive and economic purposes.

He said Sir John also was impressed by the Philippines extensive fish culture about which Ceylon could learn from the Philippines.

FISH BREEDING

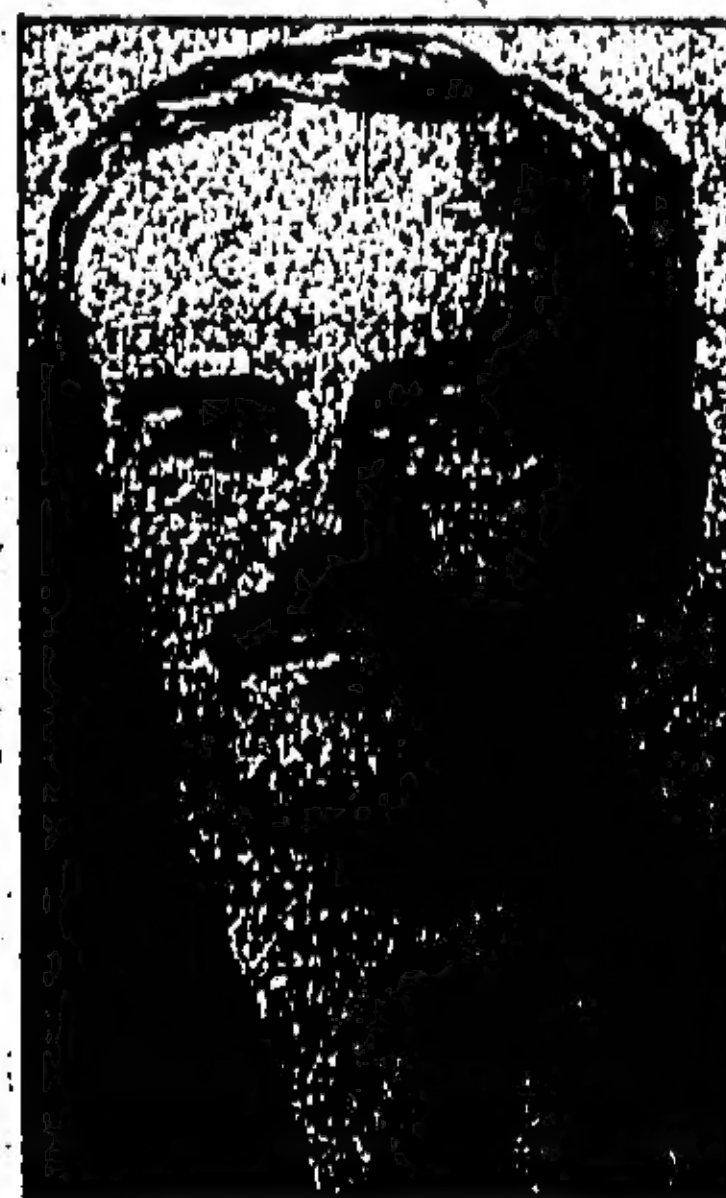
On the flight to Manila from Baguio, he saw wide areas of lowlands and shallow waters around the coast, enclosed into ponds for breeding edible fish.

Ceylon has nothing like it, Sir John said, although Ceylon has many suitable areas for the purpose.—Reuters.

Molotov At Yugoslav Reception

Moscow, Dec. 27.

The Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Vyacheslav Molotov, today attended a reception given by the Yugoslav Ambassador, Mr Dobrovic Vukich, in honour of a Yugoslav trade delegation which is visiting Russia.



MR. MOLOTOV

Also present at the reception were Mr Anastas Mikoyan, First Vice-Premier and Minister of Trade, Ivan Rabinov, Minister of Foreign Trade and Valentin Zorina, Deputy Foreign Minister.

The Ambassador of Britain, France, the United States and Communist China also attended.—France Press.

Three Rats To Every Japanese

Tokyo, Dec. 28.

The Japanese Welfare Minister has announced that there are three rats for every human in Japan—and the rodents are eating almost as much rice as Japan imports every year.

A Ministry survey showed there were about 200,000,000 rats in Japan compared to about 88,000,000 people.

Ministry officials estimated home rats were eating a total of 32,500,000 bushels of rice a year, it cost each rat one about four grammes a day. Japan's rice imports for this year have been set at 35,000,000 bushels.

The Ministry plans to launch a nationwide campaign to exterminate rats in 1955. However, similar campaigns in the past had only minor successes. For centuries Japanese living in rural areas considered it bad luck to kill rats. The government has tried but many Japanese still regard extermination of rats in their homes as a bad omen.—China Mail Special.

2,000 Natives Injured

Johannesburg, Dec. 27.

Hospital officials said today that some 2,000 Johannesburg natives were injured in stabbings, assaults and accidents during the period from Christmas Eve until today, but that there were only four deaths in this total.

They said that the 2,000 injured were an "unprecedented" number. Sixteen persons were killed in the Union of South Africa in traffic mishaps.—United Press.

NEW FIND IN SOLAR BOAT

Cairo, Dec. 27.

Egyptian archaeologist Mr Kamal El Mallakh, today reported the discovery of five cedar oars on the deck of the 4,000-year-old Cheop's solar boat when another huge limestone block was lifted from the rock cover over the boat.

The block was the 25th to be removed from the 42 making up the rock cover over the solar boat.

Mr Mallakh said the oars, lying diagonally on the starboard side of the deck, were each about six yards long and "in very good condition."

When the solar boat was first discovered, a nine-yard long car was found on the centre deck, intended for use as a rudder.

Mr Mallakh said he counted 25 U-shaped copper joints connecting the planks of the deck in addition to wooden joints used in early ancient Egyptian dynasties.—United Press.

Nearly 500 Killed In America Over Holidays

Chicago, Dec. 27.

Traffic accidents during the Christmas week and killed 380 persons, a record for a two-day Yuletide period, a United Press survey showed today.

Mr Ned Dearborn, President of the National Safety Council which had predicted 370 traffic fatalities, said:

"We can only hope that the shock of this toll will result in greater care, courtesy and common sense in traffic over the New Year's holiday."

"This is a bloody way to celebrate a holiday dedicated to peace on earth, goodwill toward men."

In addition to the traffic deaths from 8 p.m. Friday to midnight Sunday, 51 persons died in fires, two in plane accidents and 51 in miscellaneous mishaps, for a total accidental death toll of 484.

California led the nation in traffic deaths with 38, followed by Texas, 31, Illinois and Pennsylvania, 22 each, Ohio 20, New York and Michigan, 19, and Florida and North Carolina, 15.

The traffic toll was the highest for a two-day Christmas holiday since the Council began keeping records after World War II. A spokesman noted, however, that the previous record of 288 was set in 1948, when the post-war car shortage resulted in fewer cars being on the highway.—United Press.

ISRAEL TO PRODUCE INDUSTRIAL URANIUM

Tel-Aviv, Dec. 27.

Israel will soon begin to produce uranium on an industrial scale.

Dr Ernst D. Bergmann, former head of the Weizmann Institute of Science and now Chairman of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission, partially lifting a 30-month "blackout" on achievements of Israel's nuclear research, disclosed two secret facts here recently:

1. The exploitation of low-grade uranium ores has now become commercially worthwhile through a new process devised by Israeli scientists.

2. A method is being perfected in Israel for the production of heavy water through chemical processes rather than by the electrolysis method beyond the reach of countries lacking cheap electricity.

The two raw materials necessary in an atomic pile will thus come within the grasp of one of the world's smallest countries.

It was the former Prime Minister, Mr David Ben Gurion, now living in retirement as a shepherd in the Negrev, who first prompted nuclear research in Israel nearly three years ago.

A GAMBLE

His critics said that it was a gamble for the tiny country to engage in costly experiments. But "whether a bold gamble or faith in his young scientific advisers, results already obtained indicate that even small countries have a contribution to make towards the force which is bound to change the course of history."

In the laboratory and the pilot-plant, Israeli scientists have already proved that many countries endowed only with low-grade uranium ores may exploit them profitably and that countries without cheap electric power can nevertheless produce heavy water.

Already Israel's discoveries have attracted the attention of French nuclear researchers. About 18 months ago, an agreement was concluded between the Atomic Energy Commissions of the two countries, placing at the disposal of France the methods devised in Israel.

Details of the processes involved are still a guarded secret here.

Only broad descriptions could be obtained here from Dr Bergmann shortly after a statement by M. Jules Moch, the French delegate on the Political Committee of the United Nations, who said that the Israel invention, now under investigation in France, had taken the initiative in heavy water production away from electricity rich countries like Norway.—Reuters.

Former Reds Accused Of Blackmail

Belgrade, Dec. 27.

The Vice-President of the Yugoslav Communist Party Executive Council, Edouard Kardelj, speaking officially in the absence of President Josip Tito, tonight denounced "as 'blackmail' the attacks made against Yugoslav Communism last week by former leading Communist Milovan Djilas and Vladimir Dedijer."

Mr Djilas, expelled from the Yugoslav Communist Party in January for his unorthodox views, gave an interview to the "New York Times" last week in which he declared that Yugoslavia should create a new Socialist Democratic Party and introduce the two-party system.

Mr Dedijer, President Tito's official biographer, is accused of writing similar articles in the foreign press.

LET WORLD KNOW

Mr Kardelj, speaking at a Communist congress in Sarajevo, said that the object of the two former Communists was to "let the world know that they still exist by running down Yugoslav democracy."

"They have miscalculated their blackmail," he continued. "They realise that social democracy cannot be blackmailed, especially by discredited politicians who have lost all sense of responsibility towards their own people. They are hoping in vain that they will become political factors, thanks to the 'New York Times' and 'The Times'."—France-Press.

New Empire appeal for help in road safety

Singapore Asks Hampstead

London, Dec. 27.

Hampstead's road safety experts have received another call for assistance from the Commonwealth—this time from Singapore.

In June, the road safety officer, Mr George H. Wade, was asked for advice by four Ceylonese who had learned of Hampstead's claim that no child had died on the roads there for eight years.

Hampstead's experts had offered to visit the island and study its road conditions and road safety measures.—London Evening News.

CROCODILES FRIGHTEN LOOTERS

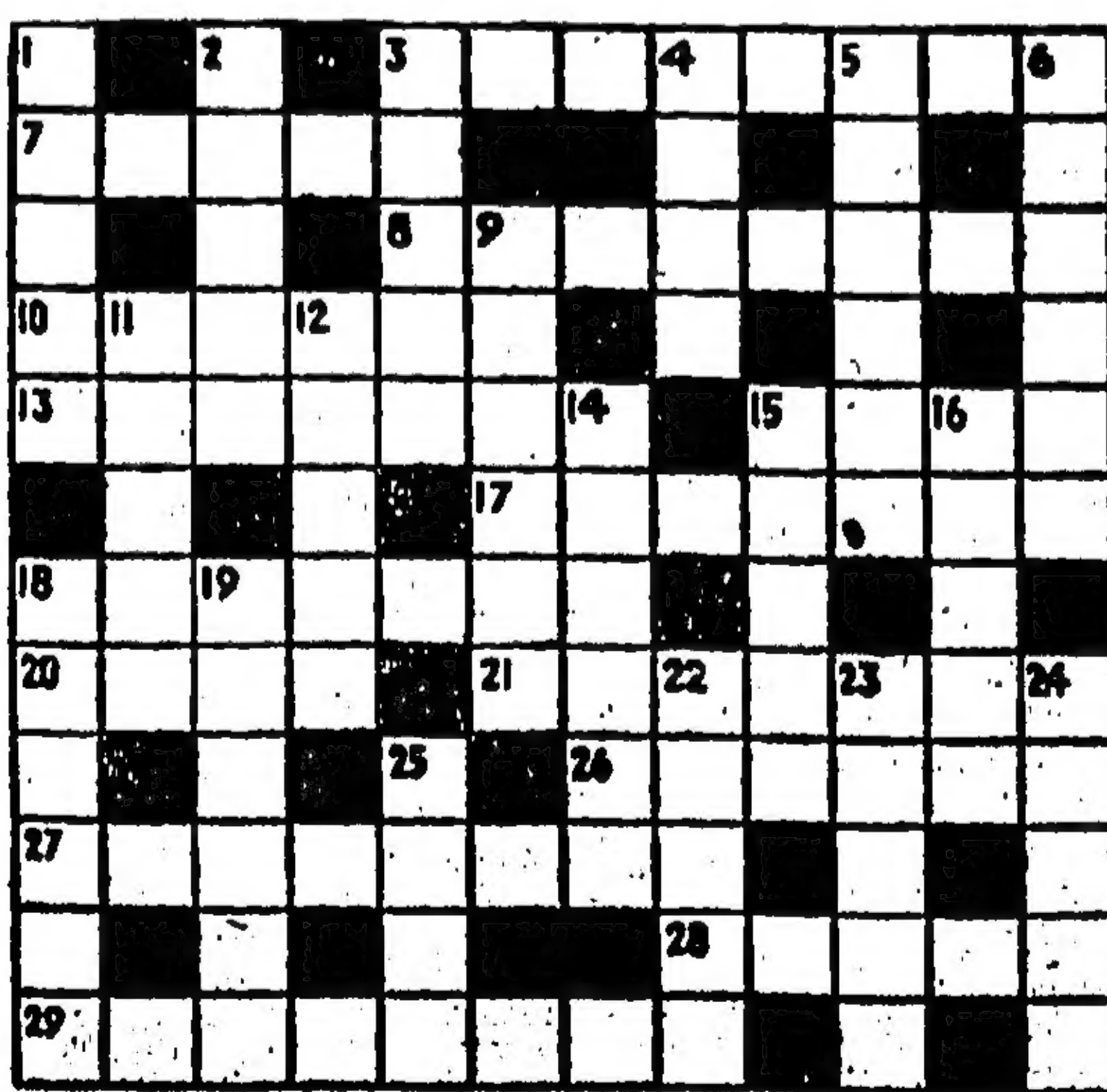
Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 27.

There was no looting during the floods in the nearby town of Kota Tinggi last week—at least not after the word went round that two crocodiles were preying for food in the main streets, where four feet of water had surged in on the heels of a storm.

"There was some pilfering before that," admitted the District Officer. "But afterwards, Kota Tinggi was a very honest town," he added.

The crocodiles, making most of the floods, swam into the town. They are a dog in front of the fire station, and then were followed by a crocodile, which was seen by the police.—London Evening News.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3 Quail (6).
- 7 Negotiable (5).
- 8 Plunder (8).
- 10 Elaborately adorned (10).
- 13 Bishop's district (7).
- 15 Porous (4).
- 17 Advanced in years (7).
- 18 Coward (7).
- 20 Medicinal plant (4).
- 21 Place of worship (7).
- 23 Haunt (4).
- 27 Scatter (8).
- 28 Track (8).
- 29 Confirms (8).

DOWN

- 1 Got to one's feet (5).
- 2 Jollification (colloq) (5).
- 3 Express (5).
- 4 Support (4).
- 5 Indiarubber (8).
- 6 Stable (6).
- 8 Abandon (6).
- 11 Competitor (8).
- 12 Sharp (6).
- 14 Senile (6).
- 15 Harvest (5).
- 16 Change (5).
- 18 Litter (6).
- 19 Picked (6).
- 22 Encounter (8).
- 23 Falsified (5).
- 24 Falsified (5).
- 25 Fruit (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD—Across: 1. Healer, 2. Hides, 3. Colon, 4. Pious, 5. Shire, 6. State, 7. Look, 8. Grass, 9. Amused, 10. Stress, 11. Sheer, 12. Talo, 13. Soars, 14. Facts, 15. Potent, 16. Ether, 17. Debtor, 18. Down, 19. Hopeless, 20. Coavere, 21. Ice, 22. Costume, 23. Hostess, 24. Lure, 25. Herbs, 26. Adjacent, 27. Executor, 28. Arrests, 29. Unarmed, 30. Tested, 31. Heave, 32. Sore.

THE TOUGH TALKER they call BIG BILL

A man-in-the-news profile by HUGH DUNDAS

Sen. Knowland

WASHINGTON. HE is known to one and all as Big Bill. He is big—over 6 ft. tall, 14 st. 4 lb. heavy, and he talks as tough as he looks.

You may not yet have heard of Senator William Fife Knowland, Republican leader in the U.S. Senate.

But you will.

If Eisenhower refuses to run again, or if his health prevents it, or if there is a serious split in the Republican Party—then Knowland might well get the presidential nomination.

And there would be a chance—less than an even chance, but still not negligible—that this man who now wants to block the Red China, who wants to break off diplomatic relations with the Russians, who is generally known as "the senator from Formosa," would be elected President of the United States.

What kind of man is this, whose policies so often send a shiver of alarm across the world?

Billy the boy

YOUNG Billy Knowland was born and reared in the town of politics. His father, a newspaper publisher from Alameda, California, was serving the third of six consecutive terms as Representative in the U.S. Congress when Billy was born on June 26, 1908. So the boy spent the first years of his life in Washington.

When he went to the University of California at 17 he read political science—and from then he has rushed forward along his chosen path.

Youngest member of California's State Assembly at 25; youngest member of the State Senate at 27; youngest member of the Republican National Committee at 30; youngest chairman of the executive committee of the National Committee at 33; youngest U.S. senator at 37—he was appointed in 1945, while serving as an army major.

In 1952 he was re-elected with the biggest majority California has ever given a senator.

A few months later he was chosen by the dying Robert Taft to take his place as majority leader, the parliamentary "Prime Ministership" of the United States.

Young William Knowland had really arrived.

There is no difficulty at all about tracing Knowland's developing thoughts and policies as a senator. They are charted for all to see.

IN 1948 he was leader of a small group which threatened to torpedo Marshall Aid legislation unless Chiang Kai-shek got a cut of the proceeds. Result: 400,000,000 dollars for the generalissimo.

DURING THE KOREAN WAR he constantly called for stronger and more extensive action by United Nations forces. He was a staunch supporter of General MacArthur.

IN 1952, after MacArthur's recall, he demanded sanctions against Russia unless that country stopped giving aid to the North Koreans.

IN 1953 he challenged Russia's right to sit in the United Nations.

AFTER THE KOREAN TRUCE he repeatedly stated that the United States should intervene on a massive scale in the event of a breach of the armistice by the Chinese—even though that meant risking war with Russia.

LAST MAY he said that the United States should be ready to fight to save Indo-China.

IN JULY he said he would, if it came to the point, resign as Senate leader in order to fight the inclusion of Red China in the United Nations.

IN SEPTEMBER he wanted the U.S. Air Force to act if necessary to save Quemoy, Nationalist-held island outpost within artillery range of the mainland; and he called for a break-off of diplomatic relations with Russia, after a navy plane had been shot down over the China Sea.

A FEW WEEKS AGO he called for a naval blockade of China.

Such a cold recital of the Knowland story may make him seem like an out-and-out

Jingoist. But that is not the case at all.

When you have seen Big Bill Knowland in action on the Senate floor you cannot help respecting him.

Billy the Big

HERE is a man who believes with all his big, full heart in the cause and policies he proclaims.

Knowland wants the U.S. Government to talk tough, act tough, throw patience to the winds. And his conviction that these ideas are right is so strong that he has now taken the drastic step of breaking openly with the President so far as foreign policy is concerned.

And because he has in all important things a record of absolute and unswerving consistency there is no reason to suppose that he will not carry the same cause and policies with him to the White House—if that is indeed the way he is heading.

ALL MY OWN SAGA...

By RENE MCCOLL

LONDON. They swarmed to the airport to meet us in Cape Town and Johannesburg and Pretoria. Crowds broke police cordons. Pretty girls clamoured for the MacColl autograph—which he gave with a slight flourish.

So that is why it is going to seem strange this time to step from the plane at Johannesburg and find myself crowded. Odd to be asked to sign nothing more glamorous than the hotel register.

And has MacColl, as he returns to South Africa 25 years after, nothing but his memories? No—there is just one little bit of tangible proof of those great days. I was made an honorary life member of the Johannesburg Light Plane Club, and I still have the little blue-and-gold enamel lapel badge. This I shall take with me.

Moving scene

SO picture the moving scene. It is Christmas Eve (for I shall be in the Union during jingle-bells time). The members of the J.L.P.C. are gathered in the holly-ribbed bar holding their noggins of Van der Hum, an excellent South African liqueur of which I have the happiest recollections.

Slowly the door opens. A stranger stands there. None knows him. The room falls silent. Wordlessly MacColl (for it is he) points to his little enamel badge. A gasp goes up. The books are quickly consulted. Yes, here is yesterday's hero, bearded and grey, but still valid.

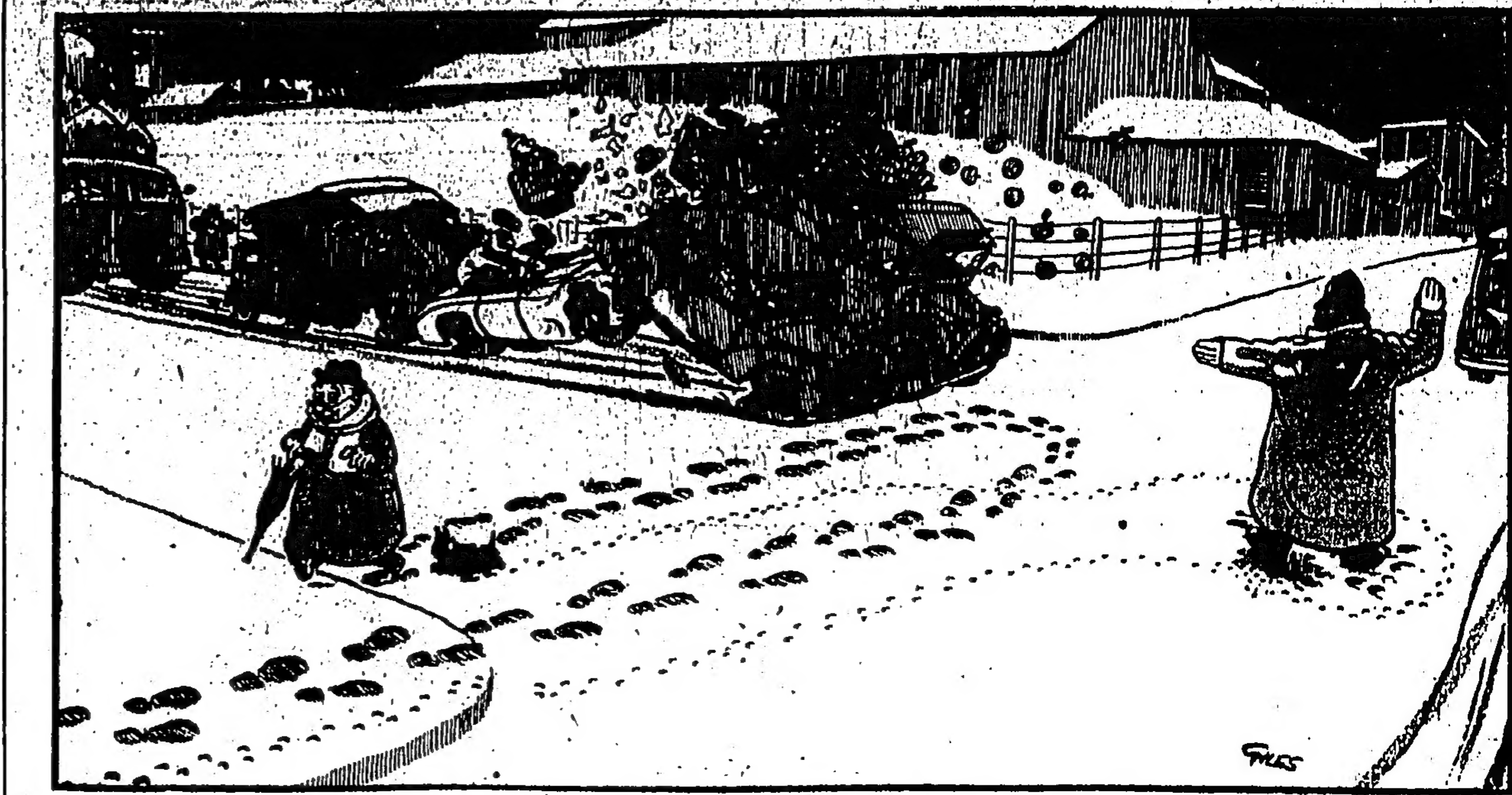
A double Van der Hum is thrust in the newcomer's eager hand, and in no time at all he is joining in a tremolo rendering of "Silent Night."

Johannesburg, here I come! —(London Express Service).

The string-beans

IN the Sudan, the giraffes scampers in slow motion beneath our wings and gigantic turner string-beans, called Nuss, waved their spears at us in an unfriendly manner.

And then the Union of South Africa—and wow! It was as though the penny had dropped at Durban. For I had just been told that the Union of South Africa was a private bank account. The lights went on all sides. There was a momentary pause in the air. You know, I had been told that the Union of South Africa was a private bank account.



"Dear me, I nearly forgot—we mustn't jay walk now."

London Express Service

Enemy Turned Friend In Indo-China

COMMUNISTS WOO THE FRENCH

By JAMES WICKENDEN

LONDON. AN enemy turned friend was normal in the power politics of Machiavelli's days. Yet it is happening even now, in Indo-China where former enemies, France and Communist Vietnam, are drawing together.

Another Renaissance touch was to suspect one's allies. This climax, too, may be imminent in Asia. For Ho Chi-minh intends that the Franco-Vietminh alignment will oppose the growing American link with Nationalist Vietnam.

One more omen of danger is growing dissension among the anti-Communist sects and leaders in Indo-China. Whitehall believes there is still time for them to form a democratic front.

But its experts consider that the signs point to trouble, perhaps civil war, in the months ahead.

ALARM

WORLD statesmen have watched this mounting unrest with alarm. Eden, Dulles, Nehru and Commissioner MacDonald have raised a month-long chorus of warnings.

Eden has revealed that Vietminh forces will reach double strength by the

year's end. Dulles has outlined "aggressive indications" in Southeast Asia. MacDonald has given clear warning of an impending struggle—"perhaps by

The Asian leaders make constructive suggestions, although they may prove impracticable. Nehru reaffirms the need to observe the five principles of non-aggression. Malaya's leading Chinese statesman, Sir Tan Cheng-lock, is off to Siam to form an anti-Communist bloc. He warns against the danger of increasing pessimism in Asia. Current opinion there, he says, is that "one day even Malaya will be Communist."

CIVIL WAR

WHAT is behind these fears of a drift into civil war?

It is indecision and divided council. A maze of factional squabbles in Indo-China, hesitancy in Washington, and weakness in Paris bar firm action by anyone.

For example, the Mendes-France group in Paris has largely abandoned interest in Indo-China, except for trade. "Let the Americans handle the rest," seems to be their motto.

To promote trade, Paris is extending credits to the Com-

munist government of Ho Chi-minh. In return, Ho is urging French business to return to Hanoi with a persistent "good-will" campaign. And his Foreign Minister angles for incorporation of a Communist-run Vietnam in the French Union.

But a diehard minority in Paris is more sensitive to the behaviour of Nationalist Premier Diem. As an extreme Nationalist, he attacks the Communist fraternalism, as well as preventing a resurgence of French influence in non-Communist Vietnam.

WARNING

THUS Paris finds enemies among its allies, the Nationalist Vietnamese, and friends among the Communists. This is the fantastic paradox of Indo-China.

Washington faces equally curious facts. They now pay for the Vietnam National Army. They also support Premier Diem, who appears the best hope for curbing Communism. But the Army does not support Diem.

Washington has warned that it will withdraw military aid if the Army is drawn into a coup against Diem. But once the aid is given, Washington wonders how it will control events. This is a root of American hesitations over their Indo-China policy.

To strengthen Diem, Washington works through the only man still with wide influence in free Indo-China—Emperor Bao Dai. Although on the French Riviera, Bao Dai manages to

operate a remote but intermittent control over Indo-Chinese factionalism. He has just sacked rebellious Chief of Staff Hinh and replaced him with Van Ty.

It is a rare combination: an unwavering, high-principled Nationalist who has been sufficiently broad-minded in the past to work with the French.

He will be more in harmony with Diem, and may draw the Army to the Premier's support.

However, this is only a start. Diem may be the centre of squabbles in Indo-China and the focus of American policy at present. But will he last? Even if he does, can a democratic front be built against Communism in Indo-China merely by backing leaders?

Beneath the Indo-China confusion these are real questions.

So far Diem has not appeared to be a good prospect for the Americans, although he is respected in Vietnam. For he is an ideally unaccustomed to rough-and-tumble politics. He has yet to prove that he can organise a government drawing support from the villages.

THE TASK

AND the villages are where power lies in Indo-China.

Ho Chi-minh takes his whole strength from them. His government and army are based on village committees and home guards which have large local powers. The primary task of the Vietnamese Army, say the Communists, is to be "in the people like the fish in water."

To make equally strong ties among the free villages is the task before Diem and Washington. So far they have hardly begun.

Headache
Do not wait patiently for your suffering to end. Take 1-2 tablets of CAFASPIN dissolved in half a glass of water, and headache will soon vanish.

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HONGKONG

CAN YOU LIVE WITH THAT HOBBY?

HOW many women will become week-end widows on Saturday as their husbands reach for golf-bags, bird-watching binoculars, sports shorts and fishing rods?

When I read the remarks of Mr. Commissioner Blanco White in the Divorce Court recently about the dangers of husbands' hobbies, I set out to examine the case-histories of 10 wives.

"A husband with a hobby is not the easiest man with whom to live," said Mr. Blanco White in a case where the husband's hobby—a dance band—caused the marriage to fail.

"But most women, I found, do not agree with the Divorce Commissioner. They say: 'I married a man with a hobby, and I love it. I don't mind his hobby, and I don't mind his hobby.'"

★ It may be anything from bird-watching to jazz bands, but there is usually a solution—as at least ten enthusiastic wives have found out.

By Anne Sharpley

advice for a wife married to a man with a hobby:

"Don't fight it. Get a hobby of your own. Mine is pottery and cooking. Of course I'm keen on jazz too, but it's important for a wife to do something, not just look on all the time. So Humphrey plays and I pot."

Mrs. Hubert Ashton, wife of the M.P. for Chelmsford, who had a triple silver at Cambridge (cricket, tennis and hockey) and who has been a keen sportsman and sportsman, says this.

don't make silly sacrifices. I've spent hours watching cricket and other sports even though hockey is the only game I really know the rules of. Why? Because I love to sit and knit in the sun. But if it's cold and wet—I don't go."

Mrs. Peter Cushing, wife of the TV actor, is a non-participant in his hobby of making model soldiers (of which he has 2,000). But she says:

"Encourage the hobby. It's a wonderful thing from which he gets endless interest. And it brings him home."

Lady Stanger, wife of Air Marshal Sir John Stanger, married a very keen fisherman, whose idea of a holiday is "in the rain of Mull or Ireland."

She says: "Go on your own holiday. I follow the sun while he follows trout and salmon. And he only grumbles at the end of the day because he's not caught any fish. I don't mind his hobby, and I don't mind his hobby."

first—but it really wasn't a success."

Mrs. Henrietta Bennett, wife of the Commodore of the House of Commons Yacht Club, Dr. Reginald Bennett, M.P., depends what his hobby is. I learned yachting willy-nilly and love it now. I think for a politician's wife, who sees her husband comparatively seldom, it is important to share a hobby."

Lady Monkwell, married a man whose chief joy is riding on the footplate of steam engines. Lord Monkwell is a world authority on railways, particularly French railways.

His wife says: "He rides on footplates in France and I go to Paris. What could be more suitable?"

Mrs. Arthur Deakin, whose husband was recently made Director of Queen's Park Rangers, says: "I have never met a woman's hobby was as interesting as my husband's. I really make a lot more of him to see his hobby and mine."

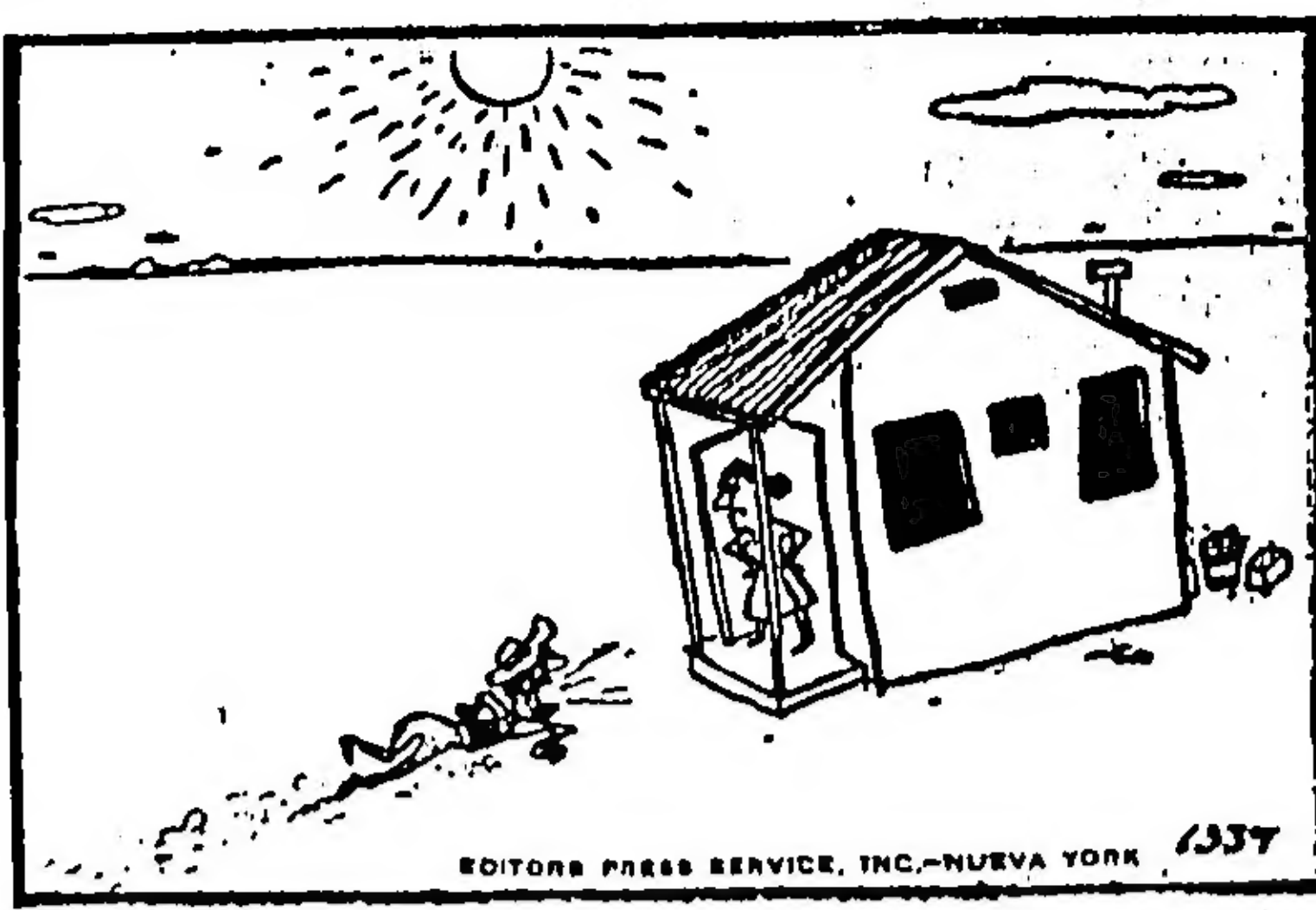
Mrs. Hector McNeil and Mrs. A. K. W. Low are married to M.P.s who are golfers.

Mrs. McNeil says: "It's wonderful for him. I'm not interested because I hate walking but I encourage him to play as often as he can."

Mrs. Low: "Although it's both an expensive and inconvenient hobby I'm sure it's very good for him, and there's certainly no opposition from me."

Lady Cowdrey, whose husband has become a renowned polo player in Britain, is delighted to watch as long as they don't expect me to play. A husband without a hobby would be impossible."

Ten enthusiastic wives have found hundreds more all happily married and happy. I've no doubt I would have found hundreds more all happily married and happy. I've no doubt I would have found hundreds more all happily married and happy. I've no doubt I would have found hundreds more all happily married and happy.



BY THE WAY

by Beachcomber

THE suggestion in the document known as Operation Progress that, by making terminal crossing-points at alternate corners of all transverse streets would be more evenly distributed, takes no account of the overflow from main streets which would follow any prolonged hold-up.

More reasonable is the plan for internal circular streets, confined to their own districts. This would allow all traffic in a district to use a series of wide double-lane roundabouts, eastward traffic going round one way, and westward the other. Convergence would be avoided by splicing out each exit from a roundabout in a series of one-way spearhead streets, linked by oblique thoroughfares. By this system, parking places would be by-passed at every corner, and the turnabouts would be fed from subsidiary two-lane trunk carriageways.

Do we deserve such privileges?

FREEDOM, slowly broadening down from precedent to precedent, is about to take an enormous stride. If you can get a scientist to vouch for you, you may be allowed to cross the channel to France without a passport, provided that you do not proceed more than 10 statute miles in any direction from the port, and return within six hours of landing. The complicated administrative arrangements involved in this revolutionary idea will have to be thoroughly debated in both Houses. But by 1957 the daring plan may be ready to be put into operation. It is even possible that, as a foretaste of the heady wine of freedom, you may be allowed, in June 1956, to go to France without a passport, provided that you do not land, and agree to return on the same boat within one statute hour of arrival.

Elephant in the antmnet

Her dressing-room's become a fragrant bower. She blunders like a bee from flower to flower. Reading, with their applause still in her ears, The idiot scribbles of condemned poets On costly curds that bear illustrious names— (Their photos are at home in silver frames). Then suddenly, tied up with common sense, A banquet of unusual design Catches her eye. Suspicion rears its head. She screams, she swoons, she falls, as though struck dead. That hideous, that crepuscular bore Has sent a mass of cactuses once more.

YOUR BIRTHDAY By STELLA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

BORN today, you have a talent for detail which is evidenced by your ability to handle the most intricate affairs successfully. You enjoy organizing plans, putting them into operation, and watching them work out. You do not always see them mature as you had hoped, but your idealism is difficult to see in full realization. You are always shooting at so high a goal. Your standards are so high that you refuse to compromise. Still, you are an excellent organizer and know how to get things started.

You are best suited for large enterprises, for you like to make great events transpire. You are just and straightforward in all you do and expect that others will be the same. Unfortunately you are dealing with a world where many of those living in it are not so conscientious. Hence, you will become impatient with those who do not aspire to as much as you do. You are critical—often with plenty of cause. But you must learn to be a little more diplomatic. Discover the good

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—A real turnabout! Good fortune is at hand. Your fondest dreams might easily come true now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—If you have confidential matters which need your attention, then now is a fine time to take care of them.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)—Excellent aspects now for your own ruler is smiling and should contribute to your good fortune now.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)—What with the stars in your favour and your actions geared to positive attitudes, you can accomplish wonders.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 21)—You should have the courage to tackle a job which can put you at the top of the success ladder now.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)—If you are planning to entertain this New Year's Eve, then this is a fine time to complete your plans.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)—A good day for all your efforts. Social matters are especially favourable for you all during this week.

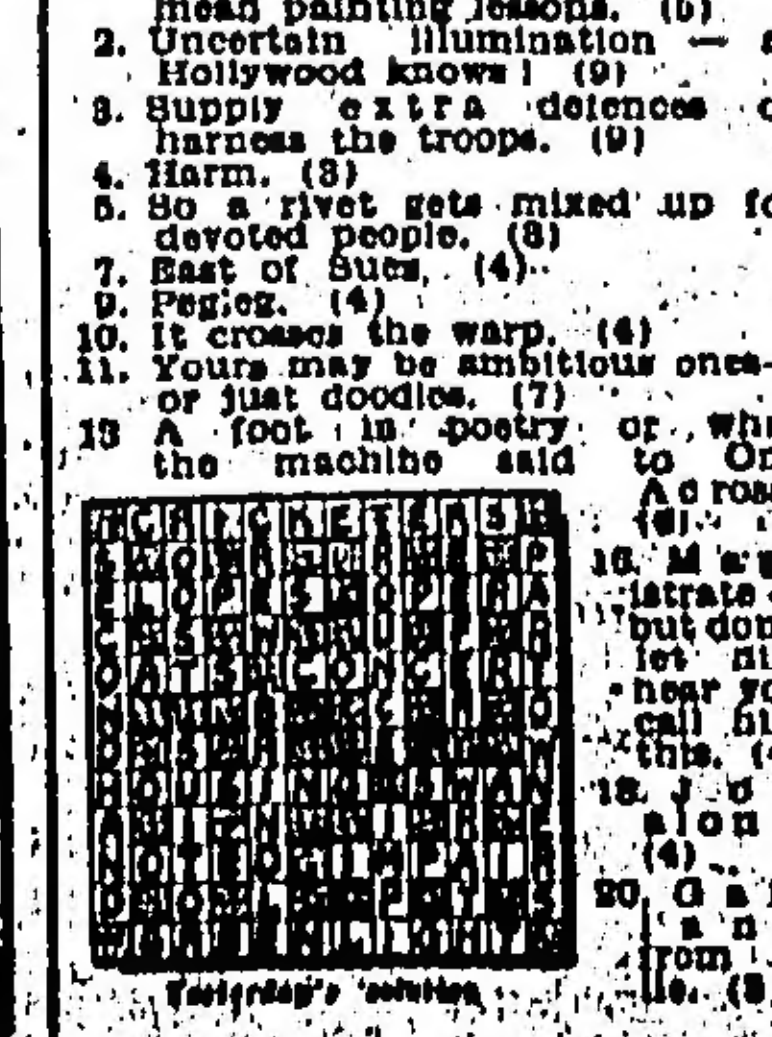
LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)—Know what you want to accomplish and go right out after it. You can almost work a miracle today!

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)—Make the most of excellent aspects to do something especially important to your future welfare.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)—Your plans should develop exactly as you had envisioned them. Real success should now be your lot.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 23)—Another good day. Get an early start and even you will be surprised at how much is accomplished.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 22)—Avoid too much extravagance, and



JACOBY ON BRIDGE

Beware of Artistry, It Can Backfire.

BY OSWALD JACOBY

MOST bridge players would rather win a trick that doesn't "belong" to them than one that does. "After all," they would explain, "if anybody asked them, 'It doesn't take much brains to collect the tricks that are just lying around and begging to be taken, but it takes real artistry to talk the enemy out of a trick that is really his.'"

This may be very true, but you sometimes see a player overking so hard at this kind of "artistry" that he forgets to make the simple play that will assure his contract. That's what happened to South in today's hand.

West opened the jack of clubs, declarer hopefully put up dummy's queen, but East covered with the ace. It now looked as though South might lose two trumps, a heart, and a club. Hence declarer had to find a way to eliminate one of these losers.

South decided that his best chance was to make the two top trumps clank together. Hence he led the queen of spades from his hand and tried to look like a player who had the ace—whatever that may look like.

West looked doubtfully at the queen of spades and thought for one panicky instant of playing his king, for fear of losing it. But then he asked himself why South would lead the queen of spades if he really had the ace. Surely South would get to dummy and take a trump finesse; or, at worst, he would lay down the ace of spades in the hope of dropping the king.

Hence West came to the proper conclusion—that South didn't have the ace of spades. And West played his low trump.

NORTH (D) 7	
♠ 7 6 4 3	
♥ K 10 9	
♦ K Q	
♣ Q 4	
WEST	
♠ K 2	
♥ A 4 3	
♦ 7 6 5	
♣ J 10 2	
EAST	
♠ A	
♥ 8 7 5 2	
♦ 8 6 4 3	
♣ K 8 7 3	
SOUTH	
♠ 10 8 5	
♥ Q J	
♦ A 10 2	
♣ A 6	
North-South vul.	
North	East
Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass
Opening lead—♠ J	

East took the ace of spades and led a club. West thereupon took a club, the king of spades, and the ace of hearts to set the contract.

As you can see, South's attempt to steal a trick failed, but he could have accomplished by direct play what he couldn't get by stealth. After winning the first trick with the ace of clubs, South should lead out his four high diamonds, discarding clubs from the dummy. The contract is safe if the diamonds break normally and if the top trumps are divided.

With the normal diamond break, South gets by with three rounds of diamonds. When the fourth diamond is led, South doesn't care which opponent ruffs. If a defender can ruff with the small trump (as in this case), the top trumps will then drop together and if a defender has to ruff with a top trump, so much the better. Either way, South loses two trumps and a heart, but no club trick.

CARD SENSE

Q—With neither side vulnerable, the bidding has been:

North	East	South	West
1 Spade	2 Clubs	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	?	?

You, South, hold: Spades 8-2, Hearts Q-J-9-7-6-5-3, Diamonds K-7-2, Club 3. What do you do?

A—Bid four hearts. Many experts would have bid four hearts right over two clubs. There can be no excuse for failing to bid game now, when your partner shows a good hand and some sort of fit for any suit that you care to name.

TODAY'S QUESTION

The bidding is the same as in the question just answered. You, South, hold: Spades 8-2, Hearts 9-7-3, Diamonds K-7-2, Clubs Q-10-5-3. What do you do?

Answer Tomorrow

WOMANSENSE

For Winter Sports



Jacqueline de Bief, the world famous skater, surrounded by two promising young French skaters, has just helped to present designer Jacques Liebel's latest creations for Winter Sports. She is seen here in an attractive skating costume during a presentation in a fashionable salon. — Agence France-Press.

EARLIER HOURS FOR DEB DANCES

London. London's debutantes, many of whom work for a living, are supporting the Countess of Randon's ban on the traditional deb dance hours, which begin at 11 p.m. and end at breakfast time.

The other evening the bright young things went to a party—called a "cocktail dance"—at 7 p.m. and whirled through the last waltz at the Cinderella hour of midnight.

The Countess thinks these hours are more suitable for boys and girls who have to be at work by nine the following morning.

"Deb of the Year," April Brunner, a pretty 18-year-old who enjoys reading Greek, thought it was "a terribly good idea."

"It probably will catch on—at least my friends and I hope so," April said. "You feel terribly fresh at 7 p.m. and, actually, it makes no difference to the atmosphere. The lights are on as usual and it still feels like 11 p.m."—China Mail Special.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' MAGAZINE

Floating on Dandelions

—The White Ones Work Just Like Parachutes—

By MAX TRELL

KNARF, the shadow-boy with the turned-about name, was sitting under the shade of a buttercup, thinking what a nice thing it would be to take a nap, when he heard footsteps. He opened one eye and looked. It was his sister Hanid.

"What's that you're carrying?" Knarf started to say.

A Surprise

All at once he let out a shout of astonishment and snapped both eyes open.

Hanid seemed to be gliding over the ground. Her foot hardly touched the tips of the grass. She circled round and round the buttercup.

She seemed to be carrying something that looked like a little white umbrella with a green handle.

CHESS PROBLEM

By R. LECOMTE. Black, 8 pieces.



White, 8 pieces. White to play; mate in two.

Solution to yesterday's problem:

1. R-Q8, 1. K x R; 2. R x BP (ch); 1. R (either) x R; 2. R-K5 (ch); 1. R x R; 2. P x R.

GIVE ME ONE WISH—AND I'LL HAVE THE SHOPS FROM NEW YORK!

By ANNE SCOTT-JAMES

London. BACK from the hand-some, charmless city, I flashed back over all the things I had seen. I asked myself what I'd import into Britain if a genie said I could choose One Thing.

I'd say: Bring Me the Shops.

It's not only the goods I want; many of ours are as fine or better. It's the services the shops offer the customer.

I WANT to be able to go into a shop knowing I can buy a dress, a skirt, a slip, that will fit me.

I am tall and thin, and nearly everything I buy here has to be specially made. But in New York there are masses of clothes in my length.

Fashions are stocked in many sizes and several lengths, and once you know you take a tall 14, everything in that size fits you.

Even dolls are sized, so if you want to buy extra dolls' clothes, you can go into any shop and ask, for example, for a dolls' hat-and-coat set, size 18.

I WANT to be able to shop, sometimes, in the evenings. I think it is a disgrace that many of our West End shops should close at 5 o'clock, shutting their doors to women who work. And that in country towns many shops still close for an hour at mid-day.

In New York, most stores stay open till 9 once a week. (Not sweated labour, just a shift system for the store workers.)

How I enjoyed Monday night at Macy's, watching the pretty secretaries choosing their shirts and sweaters... and the stout, coloured, mamma with their plectanines buying party frocks and toys.

There's no hour of the day or night when you can't buy things in New York. There are always drug stores open.

IDEAS, ideas, they pour out of Americans. Every day, every hour, you see something new.

I SAW windows curtained in a new way in one of the prettiest apartments in New York. Mrs. Francis Brennan has no ordinary curtains or drapes. Instead, transparent muslins through which the sunlight pours unchecked. The muslin curtains hang straight, are not crossed over or draped. But they are scalloped and em-

brodered, seem all airiness and light. She also has black linen tablecloths bordered in black lace. What a setting for china!

I SAW many more painted walls than wallpaper, the colours bright and clear. Most successful, perhaps, red walls in a nursery, with lots of white woodwork.

I SAW the new Gourelli Men's Shop, a mens boutique-cum-beauty-salon, where a man can get such treats as a printed gingham tie or a manicure.

I SAW next summer's shape for swimsuits—a sort of chemise. These suits are cut loosely, don't cling tight to the body anywhere.

I SAW the long torso line on dresses, suits, coats, corsets, sweaters, even beachwear. Frankly, they've practically murdered already.

I SAW, instead of lifts in the newest offices, including the UNO building. (But elevators, still, for the higher floors.)

I SAW motor cars with the new, big, curved windcreens that give wonderful vision.

They've even put mink on aprons

WHAT you can do to a mink You can:

Dye it yellow, line it with yellow satin and wear it for a stole.

Have the tops of your stockings printed with it.

Wear a bedjacket trimmed with it.

Scatter it with rhinestones.

Wear an apron trimmed with its tails.

Use its belly for a cardigan.

Go to bed in nylon pyjamas patterned with it.

Go to a nightclub in a jacket of it and look like every other woman there, including me. Because I shall have borrowed one.

Always something new to see...

Chic Summer Suit



A champagne-coloured summer suit in grosgrain with black ivy leaf design. Express Photo.

Household Hints

To protect slide fasteners, always slide them shut before washing or ironing the garment.

Heat marks on furniture often can be removed with camphorated oil. The best method of application is to stroke the spot lightly with a cloth moistened with the oil, then rub immediately with a dry cloth. Don't use a lily cloth; the fuzz will stick to the wood. The final step is a new coat of wax.

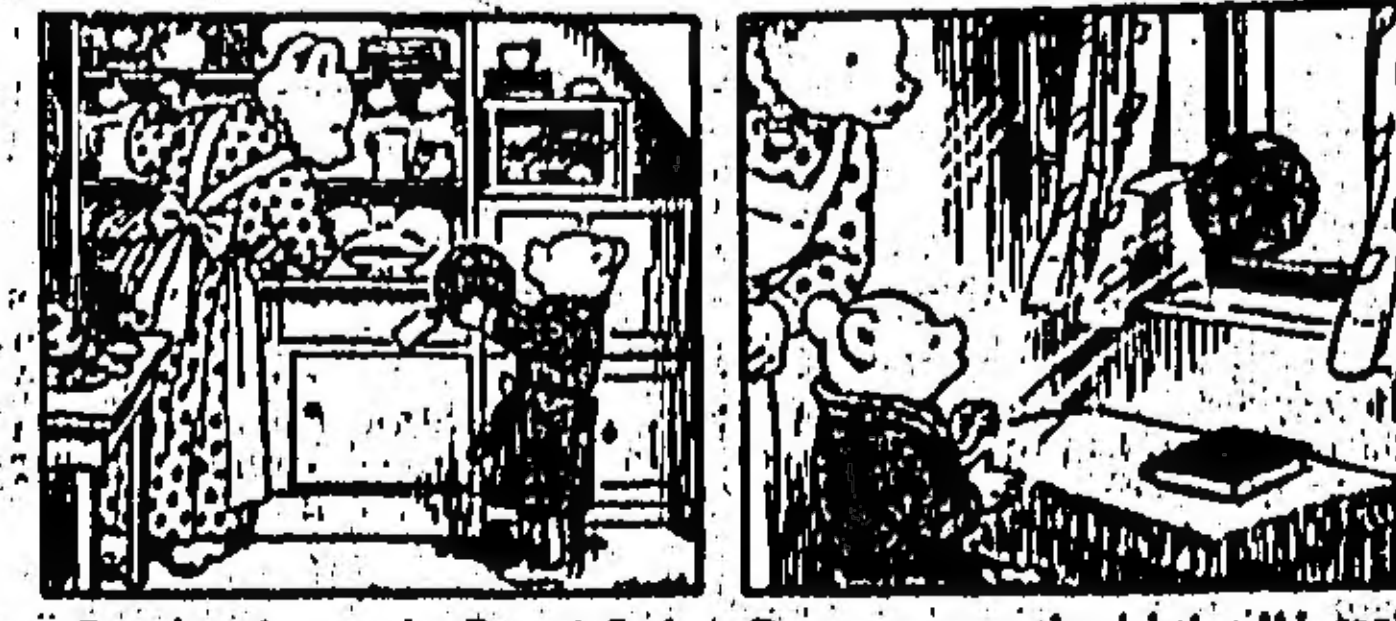
Save odds and ends up to cheese. Add 1/4 teaspoon grated egg leaves to cheese sauce or cream sauce.

Rupert's Latest Adventure

RUPERT and the HOLIDAY SHIP

\$1.00

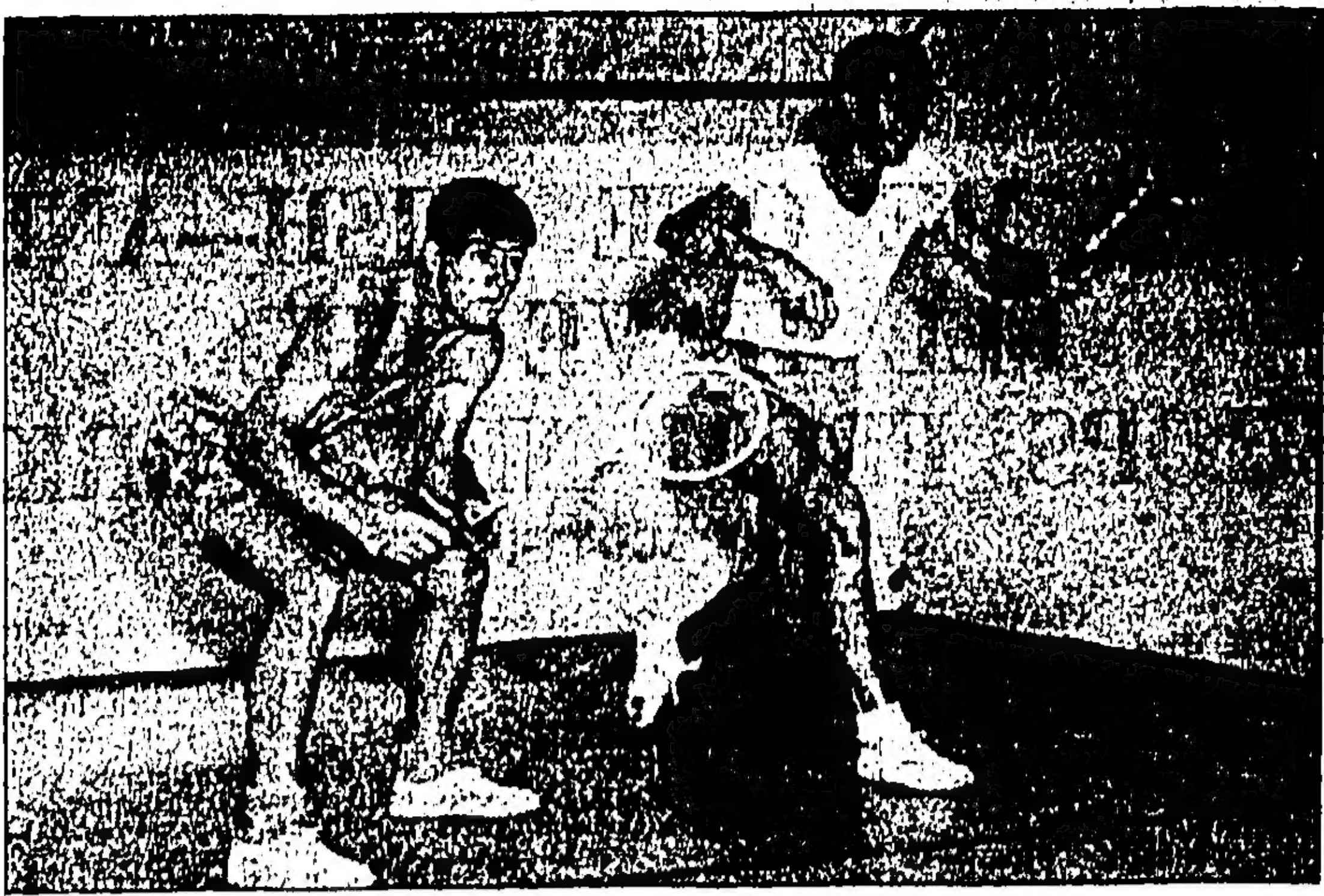
Rupert and the Magic Ball—6



Running downstairs Rupert finds Mrs. Bear already at work. "Mummy, do look at what has just come!" he cries. "It's a ball. I've got it from the post. Santa Claus didn't know I wanted a ball because I never posted my letter to him!" Mrs. Bear peers at the ball. "I can't understand those marks," she murmurs. "You'd better take off the string and see." But to her surprise she finds that the parcel leaves Rupert's hands and away it goes, floating quickly through the window!

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

GETTING INTO TRIM



Ken Rosewall (left) and Neil Fraser, two members of the Australian Davis Cup team, sweat it out in a game of squash in Melbourne when the team went into arduous training.—Central Press Photo.

Promoted Everton Complete The Double Against Wolves

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

London, Dec. 27.

No tiff for Wolves this Christmas. The Wanderers of Wolverhampton, First Division Champions, unofficial Champions of Europe and pride of English soccer, were all set to deliver the "Toffemen" of Everton in a cup from the Second Division.

But it was Wolves who got bitten. On Christmas Day they lost 3-1 at home. Today Everton acted as hosts. Their hospitality didn't extend as far as giving away points. They won 3-2. Some 75,000 spectators packed Goodison Park to see Wolves held at bay.

Everton centre-forward Dave Watson, who scored twice, was the hero of the day. He was assisted by winger Billy Wright, who scored once. The Wolves' attack was led by forward Jimmy Greaves, who scored twice. The match was a hard-fought battle, with both teams showing great skill and determination.

A welcome Christmas bonus was a goalless draw at Stamford Bridge against Chelsea, where gates were closed before the kick-off to follow their Christmas Day win.

Today's game continued Chelsea's mixed penalty saga. Centre-forward Roy Bentley's spot kick was pushed round the post by Arsenal's Welsh International goalkeeper Jack Kelsey.

Plenty of goals in the Christmas stocking for Blackburn Rovers. They swamped Doncaster 7-2 to give them a Christmas aggregate of 10 and take them to the top of the Second Division.

ONLY ONE OTHER Premier Division club, Manchester City, has not won a game since Christmas Day.



JULIUS KATCHEN

From the London Festival Hall (April 1954): After Katchen's recent last night, older concertgoers were saying that not since Bachmann had they heard such playing. The audience was wild with enthusiasm. Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, to all of these he brought the profundity of a Schnabel, united with the virtuosity of a Horowitz. That combination spell greatness. At 28 this brilliant American should have the world at his feet.

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ACCORDING TO AVERAGES IT'S AMERICA'S TURN TO WIN THE DAVIS CUP

Says DENNIS HART

On December 27, sandwiched between the goodwill festivals of Christmas and New Year, America and Australia again declared tennis war. For three days at Sydney's White City Stadium they will be fighting for the Davis Cup—and world supremacy.

It's been that way since 1938. In a tournament that spans the earth, these same two countries have fought out the final. Australia has won for the last four years, America, the four before that.

According to averages, then, it's America's turn.

And that is as good a way of forecasting as any. The days are past when players like America's Bill Tilden, France's "Three Musketeers"—Borotra, Cochet and Brugnan; Englishman Fred Perry and more recently, Frank S. Patten of Australia, so dominated the world scene in tennis that their countries took the Davis Cup as a matter of course.

STANDARDS LEVELLED

Top players today get so much tennis as they follow the tour. Involvement across Africa, Europe, America and the Pacific has levelled standards. So this year we find that of the Challenge Round teams, Head, Rosewall, Hartwig and Rose of Australia have all beaten and been beaten by America's Seixas and Trabert.

And if that's not enough, Lewis Head, who pulled last year's match out of the fire for Australia with his brilliant win over Trabert, has said that he is fed up with tennis anyway.

That outburst, however, can save Australia.

All tennis and nothing else has made Lew a dull boy. Twenty years old, he has spent most of his time wielding a racket under the stern eye of coach manager Harry Hopman. He has become an automaton, still playing good, punchy tennis, but with decreasing sparkle.

Letting off steam as he did can clear the depression from his system; it can restore that

edge to the play we saw at his first Wimbledon two years ago. That means more snap in the Head cannonball service and the stinging Head drives.

In U.S. Champion Vic Seixas and Tony Trabert, their same team as last year, America have two of the world's finest players. They are more powerful than most, and immeasurably cleverer.

Trabert, this year's No. 1 Wimbledon seed on his brilliant showing in the French Championships, is really great when in form. And there are few newer players than Seixas. Whether at the net or on the baseline, he has strokes for all occasions—and good ones, too.

But Head, I fancy, will neither let Trabert strike form nor Seixas settle down. I'm taking Head to break through America's Singles spearhead and go a long

way to retaining the Davis Cup for his country.

CAN CLINCH IT

Ken Rosewall can clinch the match by gaining a third Singles win. At Wimbledon in June he knocked out Trabert in the Singles semi-finals; the game provided perhaps the best tennis of the whole tournament. Drobny's final included. This time Trabert can reverse that decision, but Rosewall, who earlier this month beat Seixas in the Victorian Championships for the seventh time in eight meetings, can make it eight in the Davis Cup.

All the matches should be close-fought thrillers. If, on the day, abilities are equal, Australia will have something to tip the scales. There will be 20,000 keyed-up cheering Australians backing Sydney's White City Stadium.

(—London Express Service.)

Americans Lead 2-0

Sydney, Dec. 27.

The United States, challenging for the fifth successive year, led Australia, holders since 1950, by two matches to nil on the first day of the Davis Cup challenge round match here today.

World record crowd of 25,500 saw Tony Trabert and Vic Seixas outgeneral the young Australians in a day of pressure tactics.

Trabert beat Lewis Head 6-4, 2-6, 12-10, 6-3; and Seixas, former Wimbledon champion, beat Ken Rosewall 8-6, 6-8, 6-4, 6-3; to gain his first win in eight matches against the Australian.

In the doubles tomorrow, Trabert and Seixas will meet an Australian pair yet to be named.

The United States need one more win in the three remaining matches to regain the trophy for the first time since 1949. They have met Australia in the final stage every year since 1938. (There was no competition 1940-45).

For Trabert this was sweet revenge for his defeat by Head in last year's round.

In a strong gusty wind it was service and volley play, each player following up his service by coming right up to the net. Trabert was in great fighting spirit. After twice losing his service he won the first set.

But in the next set Head hit back magnificently. He broke through Trabert's service twice and won 6-2, rarely erring with his passing shots.

There was a crowd of 25,000 packed into the stands under a clear sky. Some were reported to have paid up to A £50 (£40) for tickets.

TERRIFIC STRUGGLE

There was a terrific struggle in the third set, which lasted an hour. In the fourth game Head began a run of mistakes which cost him seven successive points, and Trabert led 4-1.

But Head rallied, took Trabert's service back and broke through to lead 7-6. Head got to set point on his own service in the next game but, with Trabert hopelessly out of position, he volleyed the ball over the line. Trabert, playing more steadily than Head, kept up the pressure and broke through in the 22nd game for lead of two sets to one.

Head lost a wonderful chance of levelling at two sets all when he broke through Trabert's service in the fourth of set for 3-3 and was leading 40-15 on his own service. Then he seemed to weaken, mistakenly changed his tactics, and stayed at the back of the court instead of running in on his service.

Sports Diary

TOMORROW

Triangular Athletic Match—HKAAC v HKUAC v. Diocesan Boys' School at Army Ground, Boundary Street, 2.45 p.m.

THURSDAY

Meeting—Hongkong Amateur Athletic Association, Meeting at Education Dept. 6.30 p.m.

Scores—Searfairs' Football Match: England v. Scotland 4.30 p.m.

Mitchell Plate Second Round.

FRIDAY

Scores—Searfairs' Football Match: Officers and Cadets v. The Fleet at 4.30 p.m.

Cricket—The Third Test England v. Australia in Melbourne.

WORTH £72,000



Juan Alberto Schiaffino, the player from Uruguay who cost the Milan Club £72,000, with his wife, Angelica, has a look at some shops while in London. He was in Britain with his teammates of the Milan Club to play West Ham in a floodlit match.—Express Photo.

TAKE YOUR CUE FROM HORACE LINDRUM USE THE STUN ON STRANGE TABLES

"How on earth did you manage to play on that table?"

The question was put to me by an amateur player during a recent Exhibition game. He was unable to produce anything like his form on that particular table.

Well, cushions vary considerably, and if you can sum up a table after a few minutes' play, you will automatically play the type of game which will give the best results.

This is where I shall again stress the importance of the "stun" stroke. Where you might use "side" to gain a certain position on a known table, it would perhaps be impossible to judge the stroke on a strange table unless you employ the "stun".

If you can execute the "stun" stroke with confidence it is always the safe shot if the table is unfamiliar to you. Playing, as I do, on so many different tables, I ignore using "side" as much as possible and use the "stun" to avoid any unusual angle which a strange cushion might produce.

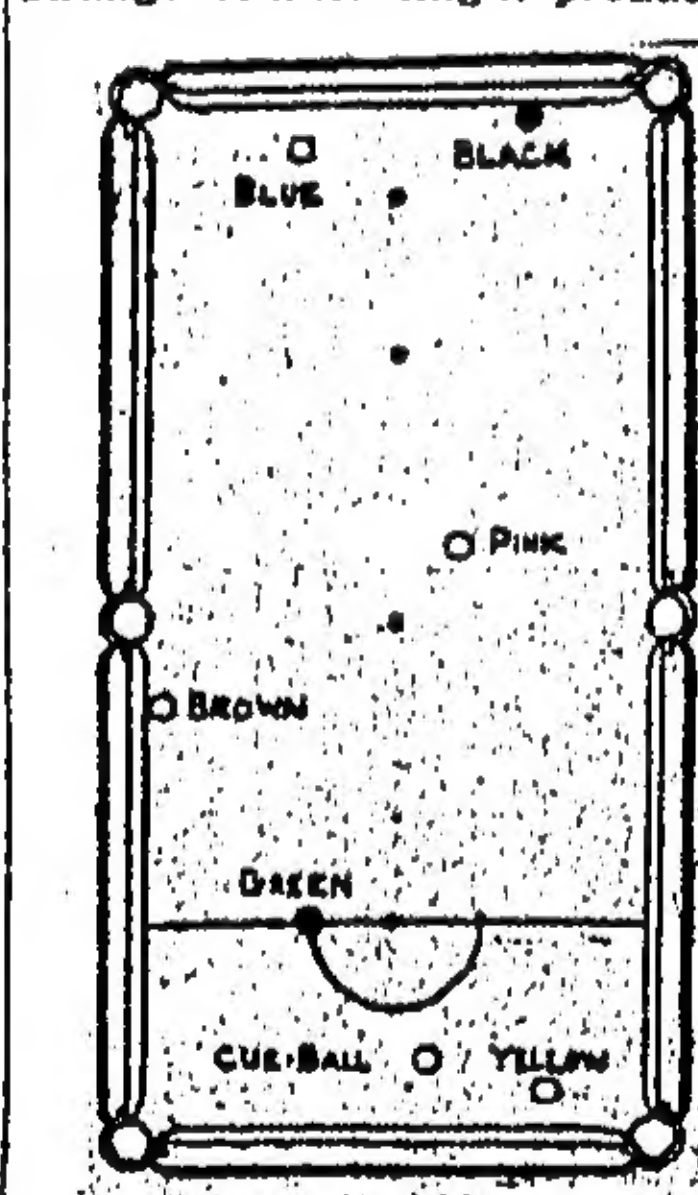


DIAGRAM "A"

The position of the balls in diagram A, shows a straightforward form of play for practising stunning the white ball into position for an object ball.

Study this carefully before looking at diagram B which illustrates the practice shots for clearing the table.

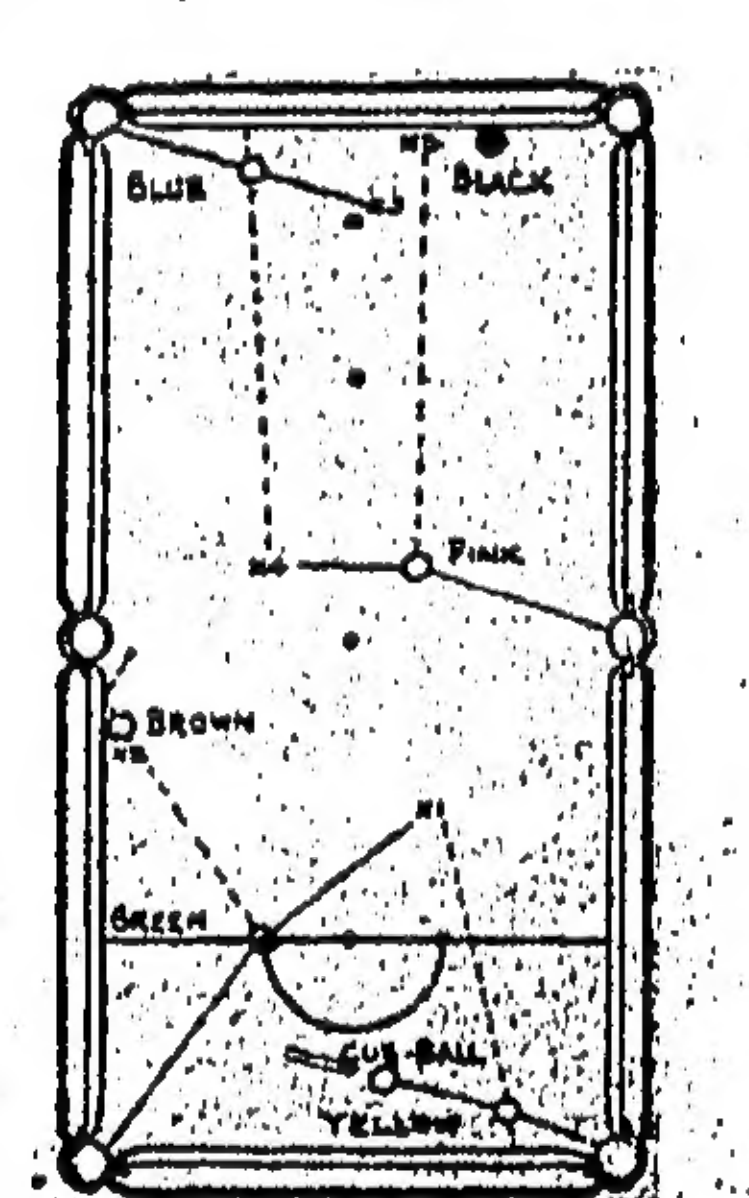


DIAGRAM "B"

Potting the green into the bottom left-hand corner pocket is reasonably simple, but it is necessary to use "stun" on the cue ball. This should give a gentle cannon on to the brown, leaving it in a good position, X2, for potting.

Pot the brown into the middle left-hand pocket, striking your white ball on top to follow through into position X3 for the blue.

To pot the blue into the top left-hand corner pocket, address the white ball dead centre and again take a firm grip on the butt at the moment of delivery. Play the stroke hard enough to get down the table for the pink X4.

The next stroke will give you further practice in the "stun" stroke. Strike the white ball on the middle left-hand pocket, with a firm grip on the butt at the moment of delivery. If your judgment is good, the cue ball will finish at X5 close to the black for the top right-hand corner pocket.

You will appreciate that each stroke shown in the diagram is not a specific break-building position; it is designed to help those of you who can afford a little time to practice individual strokes.

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CARS FOR SALE

ZEPHYR SIX 1953 model. Excellent
condition throughout. Serviced
monthly. One European owner
leaving the Colony. Offers for
appointment write Box 90, "China
Mail."

FOR SALE

THIRTYEIGHT GRAMAPHONE — Good
condition. Hardly ever used. \$200 or
nearest offer. Sale only because of
owner's departure from Colony. Box
100 "China Mail."

ILLUSTRATED DIRECTIONS for
adjustment of Hong Kong Standard
Life Jacket (for Shipping Com-
panies) 20 cents per copy. Obtain-
able at "S. C. M. Post."

WANTED KNOWN

MORPAT WHIPPING for all party
occasions. It is an excellent Whip-
ping Cream at a most reasonable
price. 11 oz. tin \$1.30, 6 1/2 oz. tin 60 cts.
Also Morpat 20 a fine table
11 oz. tin \$1.25. Obtainable at all
grocers.

HAUCKER PACKING CONTRACTOR
for personal household and efficient
supply packing cases, partitions, etc.
immediate delivery materials. 223
Kennedy Road, Tel. 21771.

INDO-CHINA FRANCE AGREEMENT

Paris, Dec. 27.
Agreements regulating future
relations between France and
the Associated States of Indo-
China will be signed here on
Wednesday morning, the Minis-
try of Associated States an-
nounced here tonight.
Delegations from Vietnam,
Cambodia and Laos have spent
months in Paris working out
with French officials the detail-
ed consequences of the indepen-
dence of the three Indo-Chinese
States.
A last meeting of heads of
delegations today settled the
last outstanding points.—Reuter.

Police Cameras Stolen

Wellington, N.Z., Dec. 27.
Among cameras allegedly
stolen from a recent shipment
brought here from Western
Germany were two destined
for the Criminal Registration
Branch of the New Zealand
Police Force.
The cameras were among
£1,600 sterling worth that had
been pilfered from three ship-
ments to a Wellington firm
from suppliers in Western
Germany.—China Mail Special.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

S.S. "TAIPING"
Arrived 26th December, 1954
Damaged cargo ex this vessel will
be surveyed by Messrs. Goddard &
Douglas at Hong Kong & Kowloon
Wharf Goddard at 10.00 a.m. on
Thursday 30th December and Friday
31st December, 1954, and consignees
representatives are requested to be
present during survey.
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents,
Australian-Oriental Line Ltd.,
China Navigation Co. Ltd.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES

P.O. Box 53 Queen's Building Tel: 26851

FAST PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE

"VIETNAM"	sailing Dec. 31st
"CAMBODGE"	sailing Feb. 25th

FAST FREIGHT SERVICE

"MEKONG" (1)	sailing Jan. 8th
"DONAI"	sailing Feb. 11th

(1) will call at London

Jap Economy Should Be Strengthened

Los Angeles, Dec. 27.
A real danger existed
that Japan might be lost to
the free world unless the
United States took the lead
in strengthening the flatter-
ing Japanese economy, Dr.
Eugene Carson Blake, Pres-
ident of the National
Council of Churches, de-
clared here today on his
return from a visit to
Japan.
"The American electorate
must ask its leaders what
they intended to do for
Japan's ailing economy,"
Mr. Blake said in an inter-
view.
"Trade with China would
not be the answer for that
trade was never more than
a small fraction of Japan's
total commerce. A cut in
American tariffs would be
part of the answer. An-
other more important part
would be the general free-
ing of worldwide trade."
"In all Communist propa-
ganda Japan's economy
is always exhibit A. I was
told in Tokyo that only 40
per cent of all next year's
Japanese college graduates
will be able to find jobs.
This is just like asking a
big intellectual group to
revert to Communism."—
Reuter.

Stuttgart, Dec. 27.
Ernst Hermann, a 69-year-old
town crier of Scharnhausen,
a village near here, steps at 60
street corners several times
a day to call out the news.
Commercial advertisers may
use his services if they pay the
local authority. The fee for
local advertisers is one mark
(18 1/2) and for other advertisers
three marks (36) per round of
calls.—Reuter.

Switzerland Recommended To Cut Arms Costs

Berne, Dec. 27.
Switzerland should cut
costs of her policy of
armed neutrality, accord-
ing to findings of a special
study commission an-
nounced here today.
At the same time, she should
remain on the defensive with
compulsory military service and
a minimum air force of 400
combat planes, the commission
considered.
Economies should be made by
reducing the number of certain
training courses and replace-
ment credits for the air force,
saving in clothing and topog-
raphy among other measures.
The Federal Military Depart-
ment had estimated that the
basic cost of Switzerland's
armed neutrality policy should
be 600 million francs (about
£40,200,000) a year. But the
commission suggested that this
should be reduced by more than
40 million francs to 560 million
francs. In addition up to 100
million francs (nearly £8,200,-
000) could be added annually
for buying new armaments, the
commission considered.
Total defence spending for
1954 was budgeted at 753
million francs (nearly £51,700,-
000).—Reuter.

No Subsidy For Yogi Establishments

New Delhi, Dec. 27.
Sixty-two members of India's
Parliament, including the De-
puty Speaker, have had training
in yoga, according to a private
member, Mr. Keshava Jengar.
Another member, Mr. Ram-
narain Singh, asked in Parlia-
ment whether the Indian Gov-
ernment would give financial as-
sistance to institutions which
taught yoga exercises.
He was told the Government
was giving grants for research
but not for the practice of yoga.
—China Mail Special.

Modern Science — Our Magic Carpet

DETECTING BAD EGGS AND MIXING RECIPES

A strange new contraption made its public
debut at a New York exposition recently—a
machine which prepares recipes dictated to it on a
tape recorder.

As spectators gaped, a pretty girl de-
monstrated that this marvel of the electronic age
will mix such things as pancakes in 14 easy steps.
All the cook then has to do is fry them. After
the demonstration was over, one cynical house-
wife was heard to remark, "I could do the whole
thing a lot faster with a prepared pancake mix."

Despite the skepticism which
greeted the new device, it
served to highlight the intense
interest currently manifested in
gadgets, gadgets to increase the
efficiency of business and home

DOOR OPENER

One of the recent gadgets
is an automatic garage door
opener. The mechanism
works on an ordinary house
current, operates instantly
without any warm-up,
requires no maintenance
and is easily installed on
any overhead garage door.
It's made of aluminum,
brass and steel.

For the busy housewife with
limited space, an internationally
known sewing machine company
has come out with a whole line
of sewing machines designed to
be used also as bureau typewriter
tables, ironing boards and desks.
One particular model combines
all these functions and also pro-
vides space for a cutting table.

An electronic device has been
developed by the United States
Department of Agriculture to
spot the early stages of "green
rot" in eggs.

The electronic spotter passes
ultraviolet rays through the
egg, then measures the green
color wave-length. As a final
example of almost wizard-like
efficiency, the gadget ends up by
throwing out the bad eggs. It
is designed for the use of
packagers, wholesalers and chain
grocers.

PORTABLE TV

A gadget forecast for the
future is the portable tele-
vision set which can be
carried from room to room
as an electric toaster can
be carried.

Mr. David Sarnoff, head of
Radio Corporation of America,
pictures this forthcoming scien-
tific marvel as having a flat screen
so that it can be controlled from
a little television box no bigger
than a jewel case or cigar box.
No cabinet will be required,
since the television box will
contain all the knobs and con-
trols.

The images may be in black
and white or in colour, and the
television can make them large
or small, according to his taste.
And a U.S. organ maker
prophesies an even more in-
triguing device—a keyboard
instrument which will spur
pollination of crops!

Mr. George Haddon, of Brattle-
boro, Vermont, believes that
within the next twenty years a
farmer will walk into the barn,
play the instrument and thereby
transmit an ultrasonic sound
wave to a field of grain. The
sound waves, he said, seem to
be able to shrink the pollen
from the bloom, thereby
hastening pollination.

Tito Inspects Ancient Fort

Gwalior, Dec. 27.
President Tito, continuing his
official visit to India, today
rode in an open car driven by
the Maharaja of Gwalior, and
spent nearly two hours in-
specting the 1,400-year-old
Gwalior Fort.
The President saw sculptor
and inscriptions dating back to
the third century displayed in a
museum at the foot of the fort.
He also showed keen interest in
the Hanu Mandir Palace, built
by Raja Mansingh in the 15th
Century.
Maharaja Tiba arrived here
from the Punjab this morning.
He was welcomed by the
Maharaja with the traditional
gandari and bouquet.—Reuter.

Pirate Plot Uncovered

Manila, Dec. 28.
River police have uncovered a
plot by two Communist
leaders to "steal" ships
bringing arms to Manila.
After capturing a small boat
containing two men, police
discovered a plan to "steal"
ships, including ships coming
from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and
other ports, and to use them
to transport arms and munitions
to the Philippines. The plot
was uncovered by the Manila
River Police.—Reuter.

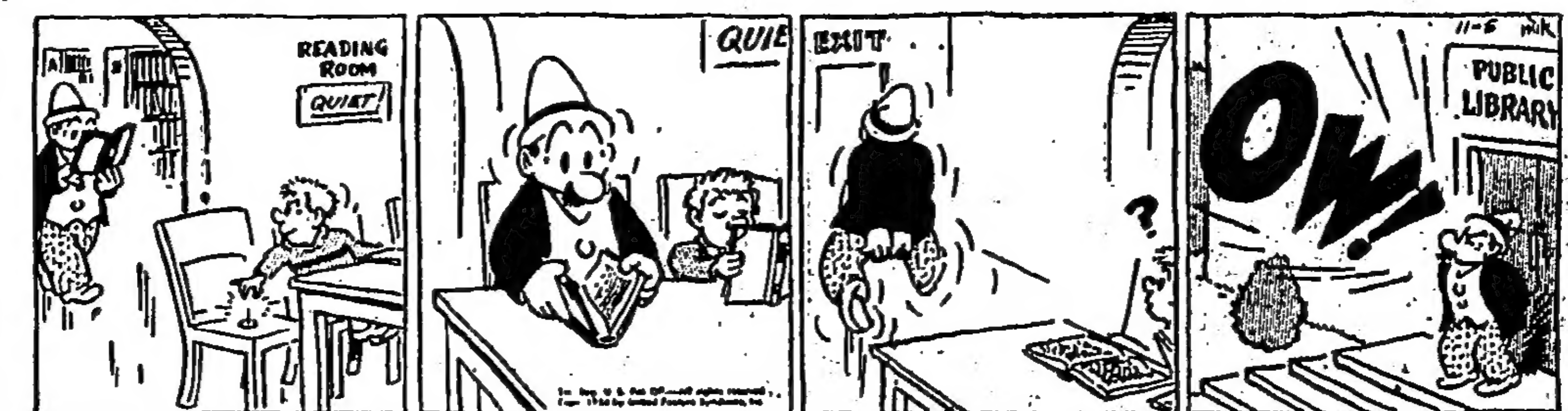
MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



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JOHNNY HAZARD

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...this situation
calls for a
San Miguel

EVERETT LINES

EVERETT ORIENT LINE
Fast regular freight — refrigerator —
passenger service to Korea, Japan,
Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya,
Rangoon, Calcutta and Chittagong.

"BRADEVERETT"
Arrives Jan. 4 from Manila.
Sails Jan. 6 for Singapore, Penang,
Rangoon & Calcutta.

"LENEVERETT"
Arrives Jan. 14 from Manila.
Sails Jan. 15 for Singapore, Penang,
Rangoon, Calcutta & Chittagong.

(Accepting cargo for transshipment
Kobe/Fusan and Kobe/Okinawa)

EVERETT STAR LINE

Fast regular freight — refrigerator —
passenger service to Korea, Japan,
Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya,
Colombo, Bombay, Karachi and Persian Gulf.

"STAR ALCYONE"
Arrives Dec. 31 from Cebu.
Sails Jan. 1 for Kobe & Yokohama.

"THAI"
Arrives Jan. 9 from Japan.
Sails Jan. 10 for Singapore, Port Swetten-
ham, Madras, Colombo,
Bombay, Karachi, Basrah,
Kuwait & Bahrain.

(Accepting cargo for transshipment
Kobe/Fusan and Kobe/Okinawa)

EVERETT STEAMSHIP CORPORATION S/A
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Wartime Heroes Recount Their Adventures

Today, nearly ten years after the end of World War II, some of the most popular books published are those written by wartime heroes, or recounting the adventures of wartime heroes.

Among those offered recently for whiling away dark winter hours in an armchair beside the fire—or, in the Southern Hemisphere, perhaps, for reading on a sun-drenched beach—is a biography of "Cheshire V.C." by Russell Braddon (published by Evans Brothers, London—12s. 6d.).

When Cheshire, or to give him his full title, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, was awarded the Victoria Cross, Britain's highest military decoration, his citation stated: "He has a reputation second to none in Bomber Command."

Here is the story of a man who led some of the most daring bombing raids over Europe during World War II and who not only dropped his bombs accurately but remained over the target until he could report the damage in detail.

This was a man who flew so low over enemy territory on occasions that the enemy guns actually fired down on him.

This man, too, with Dr. (now Sir) William Penny, witnessed the bombing of Nagasaki with the first atom bomb to be used in warfare—and "in that split second of nuclear fission," Cheshire, the supremely efficient man of war, the much decorated hero of one hundred mortal raids against the enemy, became Cheshire, crusader for peace.

Group Captain Cheshire's life of peace really began when, after a breakdown in health and a period of roughing it in a Canadian lumber camp, he received into his home, Le Court, one Arthur Dykes, an old man suffering from incurable cancer.

He nursed him and looked after him, seeking to make the old man's last days as comfortable and happy as possible. Presently the old man was joined by an old woman, and later still by many others.

In the meantime, Arthur died, leaving behind him a book by a former well-known Anglican clergyman, now a Catholic priest: "One Lord, One Faith," by Father Vernon Johnson. Cheshire, knowing that Arthur had read and re-read it, picked it up after his death and started to read it himself.

That book changed his whole life.

In due course, he was received into the Catholic Church himself, and devoted his life from then on to spreading his faith as well as to working for the sick and lonely.

His work at Le Court progressed. Presently, it became a home for the young chronic sick suffering from various forms of paralysis.

"To young men and women deemed to lifelong inactivity in sterile hospital wards... Le Court suddenly offered what had never been possible before—the combination of medical treatment, a home of their own and the possibility of helping in the running and maintenance of that home," writes Mr Braddon.

Cheshire himself was struck down with tuberculosis and during two years in hospital had four operations from which he still has not recovered.

But his work went on. More homes were built—there are four now—and Trust funds were formed to run them.

From his hospital bed, Cheshire began a crusade for Christianity. With the help of a non-Catholic who was well and a non-Catholic who shared with him the doubtful honour of being the sanatorium's oldest inhabitant, he organised a bus fitted with tableaux of the Gospel story—the Christmas Crib, a representation of Christ in the Tomb.

In the last eighteen months alone, still from his bed, he has organised three such buses, a course in theology, a new home for the dying (another home was being negotiated for at the time Mr Braddon was writing) and an air-lift of the sick to Lourdes.

In the next eighteen months, Mr Braddon adds, "doubtless there will be even more. And in the next eighteen years, the whole of Britain will probably

be incorporated in the Cheshire Foundation!"

As for Cheshire, today "his only possessions are his tape recorders, his few religious books, a sports jacket and slacks and Slater Theophile's bed-jacket. He is not even remotely interested in wealth or status and if ever he earns or is given any money he at once hands it over to his Trustees or spends it on a 90-year-old lady on the principle that 'their need is greater than mine.'"

"So there is your most decorated hero of the war to-day," Mr Braddon concludes. "An ordinary man in appearance with an extraordinarily fertile brain. An intensely religious man with a great power to attract towards good things even those who are intensely irreligious. A devout man who retains an earthy sense of humor and a delightful—even, occasionally, a mad—sense of fun. A total invalid for two years, who, in that two years, has done more work than any dozen of his less fortunate healthy people put together."

Another outstanding biography, or this time, rather, autobiography, of a wartime hero is "The Spirit in the Cage," the third instalment of Peter Churchill's own account of his odyssey as a wartime agent in occupied France.

For long months, Churchill, aided by Odette, carried out his work successfully, often in danger but always escaping his pursuers in the nick of time.

Then came the day, in April 1943, which brought his fourth war mission to France in the Resistance to an end. Betrayed, he was captured by the Germans and taken to Fresnes prison where the Nazis kept such captives.

This third volume of his reminiscences opens with the door of the prison cell slamming behind him "and the grating beneath a rusty bolt put a full stop to my activities as a subterfuge."

It paints a moving picture of the author's life from that moment until, after being almost a Sacha Guitry, he was sent to the "Camp de la Mort" in the Italian Tyrol by a small group of Americans who liberated him and the other members of a convoy of 132 "promised" men of 22 nationalities. In that convoy his fellow prisoners included Marshal Papagos, now Prime Minister of Greece; Pastor Martin Niemöller, the well-known anti-Nazi German pastor; M. Leon Blum, the French Socialist leader; and former Prime Minister, and Garibaldi's grandson.

Like the fairy tale that it is not, this account of suffering almost beyond human endurance, has a happy ending—a double happy ending for Odette, who is now Mrs Peter Churchill, also betrayed and imprisoned and condemned to death by the Germans, lived, too, to tell the story and to receive Britain's highest civilian decoration, the George Cross, from the hands of King George VI who instituted it.

"The Spirit in the Cage" is published by Hodder & Stoughton Ltd., London (12s. 6d.).

From the same publishing house come two other books dealing with the resistance in the occupied territories.

"Little Cyclone" by Airey Neave (12s. 6d.) is the story of an escape route known as the Comet Line which led British and American airmen shot down over occupied territory from Brussels right across France to Bilbao in Spain.

In three years, over 800 airmen and soldiers escaped from prison camps or shot down, passed safely over this route and returned to England—though not without a toll of lives and liberty among those who risked everything to send them back home to fight again.

One of that last lot of 800, who were the Soviet economic planning, he "skipped the ruthlessness of Communism." He talked to his fellow prisoners of their lives, their so-called crimes, their hopes and fears.

Miraculously, he survived. After seven years, he was released from that Russian machine which "11,000 pairs

of hands are needed for a hydro-electric project, brings 10,000 changes, passes 10,000 sentences and mobilises ten crammed prison trains to take the needed labour to the chosen site."

He returned to Poland and now, in "Vanish without Trace" (published by Max Parrish & Co. Ltd., 16s.), he has told the story of those seven years of horror as "one of those ragged beings of whom crowds were driven through Russian towns at night so as not to offend the eyes of Soviet citizens already hardened to so many horrors."

A book mainly on an enemy's exploits as "Commando Extraordinary" by Charles Foley (published by Longmans, Green and Co. Ltd., London, 15s.), the hero is Otto Skorzeny, whose exploits included training Mussolini from prison after his capture by the Allies, the removal of Admiral Horthy, the Hungarian Regent, from the fortress of Budapest Castle and the activities of the "disguised brigade" behind the American lines.

Mr Foley also reveals much that is not generally known about the British SAS (Special Air Services) which put into action the unorthodox ideas of their commander, Colonel David Stirling.

And at the end of a book packed with thrills as no fiction thriller would be, Mr Foley puts forward a stirring plea for the development of training in such activities, training under a man with foresight and imagination who would "save soldiers from rehearsing for the last world war instead of for the next." For, as the author says, "who could be sure, if Russia struck, that the first battle which we contrive always to lose, would not also be the last?"

War from the enemy's point of view is the subject of "The Other Side Up," the story of Leo Dalderup, an ambitious 18-year-old Dutchman who joined up as a Nazi soldier, fought the Russians in the east and the British and Americans in the west and was finally taken prisoner.

He escaped from his prison camp in northern England after the German surrender, reached Ireland, worked on a farm for a year and finally joined the Royal Air Force to escape arrest and deportation to Holland.

The story of Leo Dalderup is told by John Murdoch and the book is published by Hodder & Stoughton (12s. 6d.).

In 1953, the Russians suddenly released Private Frank Kelly and handed him over to the British military authorities in East Berlin.

He had been their prisoner for nearly eight years and had been in the notorious Vladimir Prison, called the prison of Lost Men, for six of them.

His adventures began in September 1944 when, a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps, he was dropped by parachute at Arnhem. He spent the rest of the war in Stalag 4B until his liberation by the Russians in April 1945.

He left the camp and was living in Leipzig until one day he was arrested as a spy by the Russians. That was the beginning of the main part of his book, published by Evans Brothers, London (12s. 6d.) under the title of "Private Kelly" by himself.

By all the laws of chance, the Polish engineer Antoni Elkart, should be dead. For seven years, he served in Soviet prisons and forced labour camps. He travelled in crowded, unheated cattle trucks and in open lorries through blizzards, where men froze and died beside him. He worked in eight concentration camps, including Kotlas, in the icy tundras inside the Arctic Circle, in the north-western corner of Europe.

As one of that last lot of 800, who were the Soviet economic planning, he "skipped the ruthlessness of Communism." He talked to his fellow prisoners of their lives, their so-called crimes, their hopes and fears.

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A book mainly on an enemy's exploits as "Commando Extraordinary" by Charles Foley (published by Longmans, Green and Co. Ltd., London, 15s.), the hero is Otto Skorzeny, whose exploits included training Mussolini from prison after his capture by the Allies, the removal of Admiral Horthy, the Hungarian Regent, from the fortress of Budapest Castle and the activities of the "disguised brigade" behind the American lines.

Mr Foley also reveals much that is not generally known about the British SAS (Special Air Services) which put into action the unorthodox ideas of their commander, Colonel David Stirling.

And at the end of a book packed with thrills as no fiction thriller would be, Mr Foley puts forward a stirring plea for the development of training in such activities, training under a man with foresight and imagination who would "save soldiers from rehearsing for the last world war instead of for the next." For, as the author says, "who could be sure, if Russia struck, that the first battle which we contrive always to lose, would not also be the last?"

War from the enemy's point of view is the subject of "The Other Side Up," the story of Leo Dalderup, an ambitious 18-year-old Dutchman who joined up as a Nazi soldier, fought the Russians in the east and the British and Americans in the west and was finally taken prisoner.

He escaped from his prison camp in northern England after the German surrender, reached Ireland, worked on a farm for a year and finally joined the Royal Air Force to escape arrest and deportation to Holland.

The story of Leo Dalderup is told by John Murdoch and the book is published by Hodder & Stoughton (12s. 6d.).

In 1953, the Russians suddenly released Private Frank Kelly and handed him over to the British military authorities in East Berlin.

He had been their prisoner for nearly eight years and had been in the notorious Vladimir Prison, called the prison of Lost Men, for six of them.

His adventures began in September 1944 when, a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps, he was dropped by parachute at Arnhem. He spent the rest of the war in Stalag 4B until his liberation by the Russians in April 1945.

He left the camp and was living in Leipzig until one day he was arrested as a spy by the Russians. That was the beginning of the main part of his book, published by Evans Brothers, London (12s. 6d.) under the title of "Private Kelly" by himself.

By all the laws of chance, the Polish engineer Antoni Elkart, should be dead. For seven years, he served in Soviet prisons and forced labour camps. He travelled in crowded, unheated cattle trucks and in open lorries through blizzards, where men froze and died beside him. He worked in eight concentration camps, including Kotlas, in the icy tundras inside the Arctic Circle, in the north-western corner of Europe.

As one of that last lot of 800, who were the Soviet economic planning, he "skipped the ruthlessness of Communism." He talked to his fellow prisoners of their lives, their so-called crimes, their hopes and fears.

Miraculously, he survived. After seven years, he was released from that Russian machine which "11,000 pairs

TRADE AND COMMERCE SECTION AMERICAN INDUSTRY Unsatisfactory Year But Should Pick Up ANNUAL REVIEW

By Harry W. Frantz

Washington, Dec. 27.

The United States textile industry had a generally unsatisfactory year in 1954, but signs of a pick-up in the fourth quarter stirred hopes of better conditions in 1955.

The entire industry needs a stimulus to production volume, which in turn, awaits general economic prosperity and maximum employment.

United States wool consumption was at a low level during much of the year, indices for total textile-mill production were below 1953, and total imports of fibres and textile products were smaller.

United States total exports of fibres and textile products were \$34,900,000 against \$30,300,000.

The steady encroachment of man-made synthetic textiles against products made from natural fibres continued to preoccupy the entire industry.

Silk continued an uphill post-war fight for a better position in textile production, but was handicapped by low prices of competitive products.

Some of the basic statistics of the United States textile industry and commerce as last reported are as follows:

The Index for United States production of all textile mill products in October was 95 per cent of the average 1947-49 production base of 100 per cent. This was a recovery from low of 82 per cent in June, 1954, but was still below the index of 100 in October, 1953.

The October, 1954 index for cotton and synthetic fabrics production was 96 compared to a low of 85 in July and an October, 1953 index of 101.

United States total production of cotton broad-woven goods in the quarter July-September, 1954, was 2,304,482,000 linear yards compared to 2,453,658,000 in the previous quarter, and 2,424,125,000 in the third quarter of 1953.

The United States production of broad-woven fabrics from all synthetic fibres and silk in July-September, 1954, totalled 339,078,000 yards compared to 625,572,000 in the previous quarter, and 580,802,000 in the third quarter of 1953.

Production of fabrics from silk and synthetic fibres other than rayon, acetate and nylon was 49,769,000 in the second quarter of 1954 and 34,838,000 in the third quarter of 1953.

United States imports of textile fibres and manufactures in January-August period of 1954 totalled \$524,000,000 compared to \$554,400,000 in the period of the previous year.

IMPORTS

These total imports included the following:

Cotton manufactures, \$45,800,000 in eight months of 1954 against \$44,400,000 in eight months of 1953; unmanufactured cotton, \$21,800,000 against \$31,300,000; unmanufactured wool, \$153,400,000 against \$221,500,000; wool semi-manufactures, \$24,100,000 against \$30,000,000; wool manufactures, \$97,100,000 against \$97,100,000; silk manufactures, \$37,100,000 against \$63,600,000; silk manufactures, \$17,200,000 against \$21,700,000; and synthetic fibres and manufactures, \$10,300,000 against \$25,500,000.

United States exports of all textiles and manufactures in January-August, 1954, were valued at \$32,300,000 against \$28,900,000 in the same period of 1953.

The largest exports in this category were raw cotton (excluding linters), which amounted to \$307,000,000 against \$326,400,000. Some of these transactions were financed by credit aid from the Export-Import Bank.

United States exports of cotton manufactures in January-August, 1954, were \$173,000,000 against \$184,400,000 in the

British Markets Closed

London, Dec. 27.
All British securities and commodity markets are closed today. They will reopen for trading tomorrow.—United Press.

World Cotton Markets

New York, Dec. 27.
Post-holiday trading in cotton brought higher prices for the third session in a row.

All new crop deliveries edged into new seasonal highs, scoring gains up to around \$1 a bale.

The rise, accomplished in relatively quiet dealings, reflected abated hedge selling, plus a continued demand from Wall Street commission houses, textile mills, exporters and spot houses buying on balance.

Preference for new crop deliveries again associated with prospects for a tight supply situation on commercial cotton before the next harvest, along with a smaller acreage next year and the practical assurance of right high supports for another year.

Revived activity in the Worth Street cotton goods trade last week, when print cloth sales alone were estimated at upward of 50,000,000 yards, influenced buying sentiment.

The New York Cotton Exchange Service Bureau, in a resume of Government selling prices for cotton, figured that during January, spot-cotton cotton can be sold domestically at 105 per cent of parity, or about 38.11 cents a pound at the current parity rate.

Trading volumes and open interests in the Exchange were:

Month	Volume	Open Interests
Mar.	10,000	919,000
May	1,150,000	1,150,000
July	8,700	589,200
Oct.	7,000	140,000
Dec.	6,000	39,000
Mar.	2,800	43,000
May	1,800	49,000
Total	41,100	2,904,400 bales

NEW YORK

Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot	Mar.	May	July	Oct.	Dec.	Mar.	May
35.25	34.87	35.11	35.11	35.35-36	35.35-37	35.31	35.58

NEW ORLEANS

Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot	Mar.	May	July	Oct.	Dec.	Mar.	May
34.10	34.59	35.15-16	35.15	35.38	35.40	35.71	35.82

SAO PAULO

Futures closings, in cruzeiros per kilo was as follows:

Dec.	Mar.	May	July	Oct.
33.60	33.10	32.78	32.85	32.70

(In the United States, the average price of 15/16 middling at 10 designated spot markets was 34.30 cents. Sales at these centres totalled 8,773 bales.)—United Press.

World Rubber Markets

New York, Dec. 27.

Rubber futures today closed 30 to 40 points higher with sales of 205 contracts.

In the spot market, a good-sized business was done with the dealers estimating the volume around 1,000 tons. Future closings:

Mar.	May	July	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.
30.40-45	31.25	31.70	31.70	31.50	31.45

AMSTERDAM

The market was very firm. Prices closed today in guilders per kilogram, CIF Jan. 49 as follows:

No. 1 rubber	No. 2 rubber	No. 3 rubber	No. 4 rubber
2.25 buyers	2.25 buyers	2.21 buyers	2.21 buyers

—United Press.

Poor Reception

Owing to poor radio reception this morning, many of our usual commercial items were not available.

HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE

(From Our Correspondent).

Business done on the Hongkong Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$51,227.50. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions:

SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES

BANKS

HSK Bank ... 1003

East Asia ... 210

INSURANCES

Union ... 810 917.4

London ... 51

Underwriters ... 240

SHIPPING

Waterfront ... 9.20

DOCKS, ETC.

Dock ... 25.50 20

Provident ... 15.70

Wholesale ... 0.90 7 3500 7

LAND, ETC.

HK Land ... 15.50 15.70 2300 15.50

2500 15.70

2000 15.70

1000 15.70

500 15.70

250 15.70

125 15.70

62 15.70

31 15.70

15 15.70

7 15.70

3 15.70

1 15.70

Utilities

Trans ... 21.50 21.50 2500 21.50

Trans ... 21.50 21.50 2500 21.50

C. Light (N) 15.10

Electric (N) 26.10 26.10 500 26.10

100 26.10

50 26.10

25 26.10

12 26.10

6 26.10

3 26.10

1 26.10

Miscellaneous

Yong ... 5.50 6

NEW YORK SUGAR

Market

New York, Dec. 27.

World No. 4 sugar futures closed today 2 points higher to 1 point lower with sales of only one contract.

STREAMLINE FILTERS LTD.
FILTERS FOR OIL PURIFICATION
ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT CO. LTD.
H.K. & Shanghai Bank Bldg. Tel. 27729

CHINA MAIL

LARGEST WRITING MILEAGE GUARANTEED
SHEAFFERS
Fineline "500"
RETRACTABLE BALLPOINT PEN

Page 10 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1954.

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

The twin story

THE cut-and-thrust of Christmas shopping was in full swing in the store. A confusion of customers clustered round each corner and the bells of cash-registers rang out joyful jingling music.

A manager surveyed the scene and found what he saw, good. Then his eye was caught by something that pleased him less. He saw two slim, boyish figures, one counter, help themselves to a fountain pen apiece, then slip away.

The manager followed the boys to the Christmas card department and watched them steal there, half a dozen cards. That seemed to complete their business in the store, for they headed for the street door.

ORPHANS
IN the street, the manager challenged the boys. He took them back to his office, and sent for the police.

"What's your name?" the policeman asked the larger boy. "Smith," the two replied in unison.

"We're brothers," the bigger boy explained. "I'm Fred, he's Ron."

"Where's your home?" the policeman asked. "Got no home," said Fred. "Where do your parents live, then?"

"Got no parents," Ron said. "Orphans."

Then they told their story, of their mother and their father dying within months of each other, earlier in the year, leaving them alone in the world.

THE KIND LADY
"So we come away from home," Guernsey, where our home was," Fred said. "There was a kind lady who was not when she was on holiday," Ron added. "She lived in London, and she said we could stay with her if we were ever here, so we came, and we did for a week or two. Got no one else now."

The policeman and the manager looked with pity at the two boys, and the trifle they had stolen.

"You'd better come along to the station," the policeman said.

WORKING
AT Great Marlborough Street court next morning, the two boys pleaded guilty to their thefts. Ron, who was 10, stood before the clerk, Fred, a year older, qualified to stand in it.

"They tell me they've both been in a job up to the time of their arrest," a policeman told Mr. Paul Bennett, VC, the magistrate. "and that they have been living in lodgings-house."

Thailand Concerned Over Vietnamese Refugees In The North

Bangkok, Dec. 27. The greatest threat to Thailand's security from the Communists today lies in a large group of refugees from the Indo-China war.

Some Thai and American officials have used the term "explosive" to describe the problem of an estimated 50,000 Vietnam refugees residing in the north-eastern provinces of Thailand.

What should be done with the refugees from the fighting in Vietnam, and to a lesser extent in Laos, and the implications caused by their presence in Thailand will be the major issue for the newly appointed United States Ambassador, Mr. John Puerfuerst.

Thailand wants to get rid of the Vietnamese quickly for a number of reasons, one being that they are occupying and using land that could be used by the Thai.

Another is that they are believed to be predominantly loyal to the Vietnamese and as such provide a convenient base for Communist infiltration and agitation.

One of the main reasons for Thailand's urgency is that she wants to get the problem settled before Ho Chi-minh's Vietnamese regime digests its Geneva gains and, using its large military force as a threatening force, adopts the role of protector toward its people across the Mekong River.

OBJECT TO FRENCH
The overwhelming majority of the Vietnamese (about 90 per cent according to Government spokesmen) stated in a recent questionnaire that they would not go to South Vietnam because of their objection to French control.

Thailand's Prime Minister, Field Marshal Phibun Phibul, said recently he would use force if necessary to get the Vietnamese out of his country. He did not say where he would "force" them to or when he would start.

American officials in Bangkok have a fear that this "persecution" of Vietnamese nationals might be precisely what the Communists want to give them an excuse for intervening.

They are using moderation in their discussions with Thai officials on the problem. The majority of the refugees found their way to Thailand over the last seven years when fighting drove them from their homes in Vietnam.

POLITICAL REFUGEES
A few of them, however, are political refugees who fled from the French far back as the late 1930's.

The north-eastern area where the hard working Vietnamese have settled in clannish groups is one of the most unproductive parts of Thailand. The poor soil of the flatlands south and west of the Mekong River, which divides Indo-China and Thailand, is not good for rice.

This year the area suffered more than usual, first going through a drought and then floods that washed away much of the young crops.

The Vietnamese, admitted by even the Thais themselves to be harder workers and better administrators, have virtually taken over whole towns and sections.

They openly proclaim their devotion to the area, and virtually every Vietnamese home has a shrine with a picture of the Communist leader.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"Harold gave me this encyclopaedia because I let him think I'm intellectual—I'm going to exchange it for perfume!"

THE DUCHESS OF KENT HAS A LUXURIOUS NEW HOME

London, Dec. 27. The Duchess of Kent will move into a luxurious new home on New Year's day.

A house in Kensington Palace near Hyde Park has been restored and re-decorated for her. All the painting and papering was done while the Duchess was in America last Autumn and now her furniture, much of it kept in a London storeroom since 1940 when the Kents' Belgrave Square house was hit in the blitz, is rapidly being installed.

In 1955 Kensington Palace will be the scene of dinners and parties such as it has not known for many years past as the Duchess, an aunt of Queen Elizabeth II, entertains for her debutante daughter, Princess Alexandra, who was 18 on Christmas Day.



THE DUCHESS OF KENT

The Duke of Kent will live there when he gets leave from the Army and Prince Michael, the 12-year-old schoolboy who is godson of the late President Roosevelt, will stay in the Palace apartments too.

£50,000 SPENT
The country farm-house home of the Kents, the Comptons at Iwer in Bucks, will still be kept on but most of the Duchess's time will henceforth be spent in London.

Everything in the new royal residence is essentially elegant, very characteristic of her cultured tastes. About £50,000 has been spent in reconstructing this "grace-and-favour home," that is, a house which is the personal gift of Her Majesty the Queen who can choose the tenants for it.

It is not far from the Russian Embassy in Kensington Palace Gardens and has open access to the park.

No Confirmation Of Churchill Trip To U.S.A.

Washington, Dec. 27. Both British and United States officials today disclaimed knowledge of a possible Washington trip by Winston Churchill.

The officials were commenting on reports which said that Sir Winston was planning to fly to Washington for urgent talks on Western unity.

Conviction Against Alleged Gold Smuggler Quashed

The Magistrate's conviction of Ng Chee, 22, on a charge of importing gold without a licence, was, on appeal, quashed by Mr Justice C. W. Reece, Puisne Judge, in the Appeals Court this morning. He allowed the appeal and discharged Ng Chee.

Ng Chee was convicted by Mr Hin-shing Lo for importing on board the motor junk Kai Tai in Connaught Road Central on September 6, 1954, 30 bars of gold without a licence. Ng was fined \$1,000.

Mr A. J. Clifford, instructed by Mr J. C. Stewart of Messrs Stewart and Company appeared for the appellant.

The Crown was represented by Mr W. A. Blair-Kerr, Senior Crown Counsel.

STRAIGHTFORWARD
Mr Clifford said that the appeal was a straightforward one and rested on whether or not there was sufficient evidence to base the conviction.

Counsel suggested that the Magistrate left out an important fact for the defence, which related to the defence of the motor vessel on its arrival from Macao on September 2 last.

It was not until 11.15 a.m.—nearly four hours after the boat's arrival—that an informer pointed out the appellant who was then searched and the gold found on him.

There were two accounts as to the circumstances of the arrest, but it appeared, said Counsel, that the Magistrate resolved in favour of the Prosecution.

NOT ON BOARD
Mr Clifford said that evidence given by the proprietor of the ship was to the effect that the appellant was not on board during the trip from Macao to Hongkong.

Appellant, Counsel said, was given three or four days leave from September 4 by the master. After referring to the Magistrate's finding, Counsel said that the question of the appellant not being on board but on leave appeared to have been accepted.

The evidence amounted to the fact that four hours after the ship had arrived, appellant came off with some gold on him, not having been a member of the crew during the voyage from Macao. Counsel submitted that suspicion was not enough, and after referring to the authority on circumstantial evidence, said that facts must be incompatible with innocence.

Mr Blair-Kerr said he agreed it was a case of some hours after the ship had berthed that appellant was seen coming off carrying gold.

It was not on board during the voyage, he said, and was not on board during the voyage.

CROWN'S CASE
He submitted that the evidence of the proprietor was not probable either way. The witness did not say appellant was not on board; he said he did not see him on the boat.

The master, Counsel went on, had stated that he gave appellant four days' leave and they were now thrown back on the finding of the Magistrate, who stated that he could not accept the whole of the testimony of the master and the proprietor without serious doubts.

Mr Blair-Kerr said that it was the case for the Crown that appellant was on board the ship on that trip from Macao.

If the Court drew inferences of fact and said it was a reasonable inference that appellant, coming off a junk which had berthed some hours previously with gold in his person, could be said to have imported gold into the Colony, the appeal must be dismissed. But if his Lordship found it was not a reasonable inference of facts the appeal must be allowed, he said.

NOT JUSTIFIED
Dismissing the appeal, his Lordship said that the last paragraph of the Magistrate's judgment (in which Mr Lo said in effect that he had serious doubts) appeared to him that the Magistrate should have given the benefit of the doubts to the appellant.

If the Magistrate could not justifiably find that appellant was a member of the crew on that trip, even if he found he was a member, the fact that appellant was seen four hours later would have raised serious doubts in his mind that he had not imported the gold. The Magistrate was not justified on the evidence to find appellant guilty of the offence, the Judge declared.

STOP PRESS

New Draft Bill Approved

Paris, Dec. 27. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly today approved a new draft bill on the granting of a Western European Union by 18 votes to 17 with 10 abstentions.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Government Salaries

Sir,—Publication in the Sunday Post-Herald on Christmas day of a revised scheme of salaries and pensions, transmitted to the Secretary of State, because Government is unable to accept some of the major recommendations of the Sloss Commission, must have caused many others to wonder as to what the Colony is being committed. No details were given in the release, but it is safe to assume that with a somewhat larger measure of consolidation of cost living into basic salary, a considerable increase in the pensions bill is involved.

Dr Sloss was brought out at some expense to preside over a salaries commission appointed by H.E. the Governor, consisting of a nominated member of the Legislative Council and a well-known member of the Chinese community with a civil servant acting as Secretary. The Commission drew up recommendations which went fully into the question of salaries and pensions, and made various recommendations which the mercantile community considered not ungenerous.

Upon receiving the report, Government was unable to accept some of the major recommendations, and a senior civil servant was directed to draw up a revised scheme. This revised scheme was transmitted to the Secretary of State for his approval, presumably with the concurrence of Executive Council. From the "release" it appears that part of the revised scheme has been approved and is being put into effect.

It must be assumed the unofficial members of the Executive Council were informed of the cost of pensions under the revised scheme before the Secretary of State's approval was sought, and other taxpayers would welcome information on approximate pensions cost:

- (a) of present
 - (b) under the Sloss Scheme
 - (c) under Government's revised scheme
- upon the assumption that no further departments will be opened, and no substantial increase in staff is contemplated. The business outlook is far from bright, and while the majority in the Colony have been compelled to reduce staffs or salaries, Government launches a scheme to increase salaries and reward retiring civil servants with pensions in excess of salaries paid to persons actively engaged in similar work in the U.K.

I am confident many share the view that this is not the time to burden the Colony with increased expenditure for pensions and I appeal to unofficial members of the two Councils to protest in the strongest terms against the adoption of any scheme which substantially increases the pensions bill.

J. HENNESSEY BETH.

Far East Conflict Predicted In 1955

Hamburg, Dec. 27. Astrologers predicted today that in 1955 there would be peace in Europe, but an armed conflict would break out over Formosa involving Britain, the United States and China.

The astrologers forecast the recruiting of German soldiers, the death of a leading British politician and "dramatic happenings" around Mr Vyacheslav Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Minister.—Reuter.

Radio Hongkong

11.15 p.m. Time Signal and Programme Summary: 11.15 p.m. BBC Hongkong. 11.30 p.m. C.W.S. Radio. 11.45 p.m. George Hawkins (BBC7) 12.00 p.m. "First Hearing" broadcast by Hugh Sullivan (Radio). 12.15 p.m. Weather Report: 7. Time Signal and World News (London 12.15). 12.30 p.m. Announcements: 1.15 p.m. (Include the 1.15 p.m. "First Hearing" broadcast by Hugh Sullivan (Radio)). 1.30 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 1.45 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 2.00 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 2.15 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 2.30 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 2.45 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 3.00 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 3.15 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 3.30 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 3.45 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 4.00 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 4.15 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 4.30 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 4.45 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 5.00 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 5.15 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 5.30 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 5.45 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 6.00 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 6.15 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 6.30 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 6.45 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 7.00 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 7.15 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 7.30 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 7.45 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 8.00 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 8.15 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 8.30 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 8.45 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 9.00 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 9.15 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 9.30 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 9.45 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 10.00 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 10.15 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 10.30 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 10.45 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 11.00 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 11.15 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 11.30 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 11.45 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles. 12.00 p.m. "The Duckyling" by A. C. Miles.